

Hafa Adai!

Extreme to exceptional drought continues in the CNMI. **PAGE 2**
PSS bus driver arrested for alleged sex abuse of a boy. **PAGE 3**

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NMI moves to Level Blue

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

The CNMI is expected to transition today to Level Blue, which corresponds to a partial resumption of international flights and curfew is

amended to begin at 12am and end at 4am. Also, building occupancy restrictions are increased to authorize establishments to allow up to 75% of original capacity.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres regular radio news briefing announced this move in his Friday, and said he would also

be releasing a new executive order today in response to the COVID-19 operations and directives for the community covering the period from June 15 to July 15.

"There is going to be an
See BLUE on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

Testing moves to the villages

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The community-based testing being done at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and other airports in the CNMI was stopped last Saturday to transition to precinct-based testing, this time targeting community members with limited transportation and workers too busy to go to the airport for business-based testing.

According to Warren Vilagomez, chairman of the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, the testing site at the airport will also be discontinued and will resume if needed. "If needed in the future, the

See TESTING on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, June 14, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	183	2	185
Recovered	168	0	168
Active	10	2	12
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	8,536		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	30	0	30
Active	9	0	9
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested**	8,169		

*Total includes a sailor from the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

**Total includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. CHCC has stopped reporting the number of recoveries in the CNMI.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.



122ND PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY

Members of the United Filipino Organization have their picture taken at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe just before taking part in a motorcade that celebrated their country's 122nd Independence Day last June 12, 2020. The Office of Honorary Consul to the CNMI Glicerio Eli DM. Arago also took part in a virtual celebration for all Filipinos in the United States and Caribbean last Saturday morning.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Fire engulfs IPI warehouse

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

A trash fire that went out of control engulfed a large portion of the Imperial Pacific international LLC warehouse in Lower Base over the week-
See FIRE on Page 4

A trash fire that went out of control engulfed a large portion of the Imperial Pacific International LLC warehouse in Lower Base over the weekend. The fire started Friday evening, June 12, 2020, and was contained on Saturday at 8:15am. KRIZEL TUAZON

Default judgment vs IPI OK'd

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted Friday a default judgment against Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC in connection with a lawsuit filed by seven former workers.

At the order to show-cause



Manglona



Halegua

hearing, Manglona described IPI's noncompliance and de-

lays in this lawsuit as "mind-boggling" and "very frustrating."

The judge will later determine how much to be awarded to the former workers.

IPI general counsel Michael W. Dotts said IPI is disappointed with

the decision, disagrees with it,
See DEFAULT on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Black Wood Furniture in Koblerville remains open to the public.

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NATION

Atlanta's police chief resigns hours after a black man was fatally shot by an officer.

PAGE 12



WORLD

People in Berlin, London, Paris and other cities join the Black Lives Matter protesters in the US.

PAGE 13



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Local

Extreme to exceptional drought continues in the CNMI

Dry conditions are expected to persist another couple weeks across the CNMI, with relatively drier weather expected in Guam when compared to the previous two weeks, according to the latest statement from the National Weather Service in Guam.

It said Friday that the Mariana Islands, particularly the CNMI, have been anchored in a very dry trade-wind pattern for several months now. The Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport has had the driest May, April-May, March-May, February-May

and January-May on record, as assessed by the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands' U.S. Drought Monitor team.

The weather appears to be improving elsewhere, though. Weak disturbances have provided showers for Guam recently, with above normal

rainfall occurring during the month of May 2020. A wet trade-wind pattern continues to provide steady showers to islands between 4N and 8N across the region. Showers are gradually returning to islands near 10N with the northward shift in low-level convergence and the seasonal return of the tropical upper-tropospheric trough. This has led to some improvement to

the drought situation across Yap, the northern islands of Chuuk state and the northern Marshalls near 9N.

Despite the continued drought in the CNMI, officials report water levels are still above thresholds for concern.

Extreme drought at Tinian and Saipan has been downgraded to exceptional due to another two weeks of below-average rainfall.

Drought conditions continue to improve across Guam where rainfall has been near-average over the last two weeks. A weak disturbance will pass south of Guam around June 15-16, likely bringing showers to Guam and Rota. However, current model guidance keeps much of the moisture south of Tinian and Saipan, with those islands expected to see only around a half inch of rain over the next 10 days. **(PR)**

KHS holds motorcade for 108 graduates

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

Kagman High School held the longest motorcade for its 108 graduates last June 10, with the parade reaching all the way to Koblerville and ending at their campus in Kagman 3.

KHS' commencement motorcade started at Kan Pacific in Marpi, heading down to Garapan, to Koblerville, before heading up San Vicente and making its way to the KHS campus.

Hannah Palacios and Thomas William Dela Cruz led the KHS Class of 2020 as valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively.

Palacios said at first she dreaded being valedictorian since the title carries some weight. "It made me feel almost as if people would suddenly

have high expectations for me to uphold. I had to take a step back and remind myself that I didn't earn it by thinking about a title or what others expect of me. I earned it by dedicating myself to my dreams and by giving my all into something that could eventually take me anywhere and everywhere," she said in a prerecorded speech.

Dela Cruz said their class is no stranger to getting their school years cut short with Typhoon Soudelor, Super Typhoon Yutu, and now COVID-19. However, they have learned to cherish the moments they did have. "We must all look forward and continue hoping for the best to come out of all this," he said.

The following are the rest of the awards given out during KHS drive-thru graduation

ceremony.

■ Board of Education Award: Hannah Pangelinan Palacios

■ Commissioners Award: Thomas William Dela Cruz Benavente

■ OFEGRA: Nina Lauren Fugaban Valdisimo

■ Governor's Award: Thomas William Dela Cruz Benavente

■ Principal's Award: Jerylyn Flores Olupomar, Trudicio Litulumar Romolor

■ PTSA: Angela Janelle Manibusan, Dionne Monique Sakisat Torres

■ Mayor's Award: Aira May Napalinga Ngalongalo

Top 10

■ Hannah Pangelinan Palacios

■ Thomas William Dela Cruz

See KHS on Page 4

Another company suing IPI to collect \$462K

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Another company has joined a long list of businesses suing Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, which is in a financial turmoil due to the closure of the casino arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ping Shun Corp., through counsel Samuel I. Mok, is suing IPI before the federal court for three counts of breach of contract, one count of unjust enrichment, and one count of liability for account stated.

Ping Shun alleged that IPI failed to pay for daily meals provided to IPI's construction workers, management, office staff, and VIP guests pursuant to a food services agreement.

Ping Shun asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to hold IPI liable to pay \$462,003 in damages, plus interest, attorney's fees, and court costs.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still awaiting IPI's comments.



Mok

According to Mok in the complaint filed Thursday, Ping Shun or its assignors provided breakfast, lunch and dinner at IPI's request from Dec. 21, 2016, to Dec. 31, 2019, for thousands of individuals involved in the construction of its hotel-casino project in Garapan as well as IPI's own employees and VIP guests.

Mok said the food services, in the aggregate amount of \$440,682, were provided by two different restaurants in Garapan that were operated by Ping Shun or its assignors.

Mok said IPI also breached a residential lease agreement related to the housing of some of IPI's employees and/or construction workers by failing to pay for damages \$20,683 related to furniture and appliances that were damaged and/or unlawfully taken from the

premises prior to the end of the lease term.

On July 1, 2016, IPI allegedly agreed to sublease a 10-unit residential apartment building in Sadog Tasi called the Orange House from Shun Lin Zeng for a three-year term ending on July 10, 2019.

Mok said that at the end of the sublease, Zeng inspected the apartments and discovered missing furniture and appliances such as a washing machine, a dryer, five refrigerators, and two beds. Mok said Zeng also found damaged furniture and appliances throughout the building that required repair or replacement.

The lawyer said IPI also failed to pay \$638 for spa services provided to its executives and VIP guests, on Feb. 19, 2019, and on Feb. 2, 3, 4, and 5, 2020.

He said Ping Shun or its assignors submitted invoices every month to IPI for all of the goods and services provided to IPI. Mok said IPI received each of these invoices without objection but did not fully pay for the goods and services it received. Instead, he said, IPI claimed that it was experiencing financial difficulties and promised to ultimately pay in full for all of the invoices.

"To date, IPI has failed to pay the outstanding balance due and owing to plaintiff despite due demand," Mok said.

The lawyer said the current amount owed by IPI for all goods and services provided by Ping Shun or its assignors is \$462,003. Mok contended that IPI's failure to pay for goods and services received constitutes a breach of contract, unjust enrichment, and liability for account stated.

IPI is facing multiple lawsuits in federal court and Superior Court from many companies for alleged non-payment of services and other reasons.

A contractor last week obtained a writ of execution from the federal court that directs the U.S. Marshal to seize IPI's money from four banks and two title companies to satisfy a \$6.9-million judgment.

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PSS bus driver arrested for alleged sex abuse of a boy

A Public School System bus driver was arrested Thursday for allegedly sexually abusing a 16-year-old boy at a residence on Saipan between last March 7 and 12.

The suspect, Allan Aguon Lifofoi, 38, also posted a Facebook livestream on Mt. Tapochau last Thursday morning that he would end his life.

Lifofoi was arrested on charges of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, and disturbing the peace.

Lifofoi was brought before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho on Friday for a bail hearing. Camacho imposed a \$50,000 cash bail and set the preliminary hearing for this Friday.

Assistant public defender Vina Seelam was appointed as counsel for Lifofoi. Assistant attorney general Samantha Vickery appeared for the government at the hearing.

According to police detective Rosa T. Rios, a woman went to the Department of Public Safety front desk area in Susupe last Wednesday at 9:27am to file a complaint that she just learned that Lifofoi had sexually abused her son. The report did not indicate how the mother found out about the alleged sexual abuse. The woman reportedly told police that she's scared because Lifofoi is a registered gun owner and carries a handgun.

At 12:41pm that same day, Wednesday, police brought Lifofoi to the DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau where he was questioned and later released pending further investigation.

Last Thursday, shortly before noon, Rios said DPS received multiple calls concerning Lifofoi who posted a live Facebook feed about ending his life on Mt. Tapochau and refused to speak to anyone except to Rios. Rios arrived on Mt. Tapochau and was able to get Lifofoi inside the railing of the site where he was deemed safe.

Medics assessed Lifofoi and brought him home.

Rios said that during an interview last Thursday, the boy disclosed that between March 7 and 12, while his family members were in Guam, he was awakened in his sleep to see Lifofoi allegedly touching his privates. The boy said he pretended to be still asleep and pushed Lifofoi's hand away. Lifofoi went outside the room, but allegedly returned after 30 minutes and repeated the same action.

The boy said Lifofoi also sexually abused him when

he was between 8 and 10 years old.

Last Thursday at 11:10am, Lifofoi arrived at CIB for follow-up interview, where he stated he went to Mt.

Tapochau earlier that morning as he wanted to end his life. He stated he did do the Facebook broadcast as he

didn't know what to do about the complaint against him. Lifofoi was then arrested. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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0H032	BLACK, 2.0L 4SDN 6EAT	\$3,000	\$19,995
20H043	INTENSE BLUE, 2.0L 4SDN 6MT	\$3,000	\$19,995
STK:	HYUNDAI ELANTRA SPORT	SAVINGS	PRICE
0H022	FLUID METAL, 2.0L 4SDN 6EAT	\$4,000	\$23,995
0H012	IRON GRAY, 2.0L 4SDN 6MT	\$4,000	\$23,995
20H025	GRAY, 2.0L 4SDN 6MT	\$4,000	\$23,995 SOLD
20H026	FIERY RED, 2.0L 4SDN 6MT	\$4,000	\$23,995
20H027	TEAL BLUE, 2.0L 4SDN 6MT	\$4,000	\$23,995
20H064	SILVER, 2.0L 4SDN 6MT	\$3,000	\$19,995
20H065	IRON GRAY, 2.0L 4SDN 6MT	\$3,000	\$19,995
20H061	FIERY RED, 2.0L 4SDN 6MT	\$3,000	\$19,995
STK:	HYUNDAI VELOSTER	SAVINGS	PRICE
0H034	GRAY, 1.6L 3DR. COUPE	\$2,000	\$24,995 SOLD
20H068	BLUE, VELOSTER N 1.6L 3DR. COUPE 6MT	\$4,000	\$28,995
STK:	HYUNDAI VENUE SE	SAVINGS	PRICE
20H087	EXOTIC GREEN, 1.6L 5WGN 2WD 6EAT	\$2,000	\$19,995
20H133	MT BLACK/BLUE, 1.6L 5WGN 6EAT	\$3,000	\$19,995
20H144	MT WHITE/DENIM, 1.6L 5WGN 6EAT	\$3,000	\$19,995
20H109	MT WHITE/DENIM, 1.6L 5WGN 6EAT	\$3,000	\$19,995
20H142	MT BLACK/RED, 1.6L 5WGN 6EAT	\$3,000	\$19,995
20H145	MT BLACK/BLUE, 1.6L 5WGN 6EAT	\$3,000	\$19,995
STK:	HYUNDAI KONA L	SAVINGS	PRICE
20H074	BLACK, 2.0L 5WGN 2WD 6EAT	\$3,000	\$21,995
20H076	WHITE, 2.0L 5WGN 2WD 6EAT	\$3,000	\$21,995
20H077	BLUE LAGOON, 2.0L 5WGN 2WD 6EAT	\$3,000	\$21,995
STK:	HYUNDAI TUCSON GL	SAVINGS	PRICE
20H056	MAGNETIC FORCE, 2.0L 5WGN 2WD 6EAT	\$2,000	\$24,995
20H127	GEMSTONE RED, 2.0L 5WGN 2WD 6EAT	\$2,000	\$24,995
20H155	WHITE, 2.0L 5WGN 2WD 6EAT	\$2,000	\$24,995
STK:	HYUNDAI PALISADE SPORT	SAVINGS	PRICE
20H047	STEEL GRAPHITE, 3.8L 5WGN 6EAT	\$2,000	\$36,995 SOLD
20H053	RAIN FOREST, 3.8L 5WGN 6EAT	\$2,000	\$36,995
20H134	STEEL GRAPHITE, 3.8L 5WGN 8EAT	\$2,000	\$36,995
20H136	BURGUNDY, 3.8L 5WGN 8EAT	\$2,000	\$36,995
20H081	WHITE CREAM, 3.8L 5WGN 8EAT	\$2,000	\$36,995 SOLD

STK:	MAZDA3 SPORT	SAVINGS	PRICE
0D007	JET BLACK, 2.5L 4SDN 6EAT	\$2,000	\$21,995
20D042	SNOWFLAKE WHITE PEARL, 2.5L 4SDN 6EAT	\$2,000	\$21,995
20D071	POLYMETAL GRAY, 2.5L 4SDN 6EAT	\$2,000	\$21,995 SOLD
20D097	SOUL RED, 2.5L 4SDN 6EAT	\$2,000	\$21,995
20D043	SONIC SILVER, 2.5L 4SDN 6EAT	\$2,000	\$21,995
20D070	SNOWFLAKE WHITE, 2.5L 4SDN 6EAT	\$2,000	\$21,995
20D092	SNOWFLAKE WHITE, 2.5L 4SDN 6EAT	\$2,000	\$24,995 SOLD
STK:	MAZDA3 PREFERRED	SAVINGS	PRICE
20D093	JET BLACK, 2.5L 5HB 6EAT	\$4,000	\$22,995
20D094	POLYMETAL GRAY	\$4,000	\$26,995
STK:	MAZDA6 SPORT	SAVINGS	PRICE
9D156	SNOWFLAKE WHITE PEARL, 2.5L 4SDN 6EAT	\$4,000	\$22,995
0D012	SOUL RED CRYSTAL, 2.5L 4SDN 6EAT	\$2,000	\$26,995
20D023	SNOWFLAKE WHITE PEARL, 2.5L 4SDN 6EAT	\$2,000	\$26,995
20D037	JET BLACK, 2.5L 4SDN 6EAT	\$2,000	\$26,995 SOLD
STK:	MAZDA MX-5 CLUB	SAVINGS	PRICE
9D106	SNOWFLAKE WHITE PEARL, 2.0L 3DR. COUPE	\$5,000	\$33,995 SOLD
20D089	RF MACHINE GRAY, 2.0L 2DR. 6MT S/TOP	\$3,000	\$38,995
STK:	MAZDA CX-3 SPORT	SAVINGS	PRICE
20D018	SNOWFLAKE WHITE PEARL, 2.0L 5WGN 6EAT 2WD	\$3,000	\$21,995
20D022	CERAMIC, 2.0L 5WGN 6EAT 2WD	\$3,000	\$21,995
20D052	SOUL RED, 2.0L 5WGN 6EAT 2WD	\$3,000	\$21,995
20D074	JET BLACK, 2.0L 5WGN 6EAT 2WD	\$3,000	\$21,995
20D031	MACHINE GRAY, 2.0L 5WGN 6EAT 2WD	\$3,000	\$21,995 SOLD
STK:	MAZDA CX-5 SPORT	SAVINGS	PRICE
20D031	SONIC SILVER, 2.5L 5WGN 6EAT 2WD	\$3,000	\$25,995 SOLD
20D130	JET BLACK, 2.5L 5WGN 6EAT 2WD	\$3,000	\$25,995
20D082	SOUL RED, 2.5L 5WGN 6EAT 2WD	\$3,000	\$25,995
20D113	SNOWFLAKE WHITE, 2.5L 5WGN 6EAT AWD	\$3,000	\$27,995
20D114	JET BLACK, 2.5L 5WGN 6EAT AWD	\$3,000	\$27,995
20D116	MACHINE GRAY, 2.5L 5WGN 6EAT AWD	\$3,000	\$27,995
STK:	MAZDA CX-9 SPORT	SAVINGS	PRICE
20D090	MACHINE GRAY, 2.5L 5WGN 6EAT 2WD	\$4,000	\$32,995
20D118	MACHINE GRAY, 2.5L 5WGN 6EAT 2WD	\$4,000	\$32,995
STK:	MAZDA CX-9 TOURING	SAVINGS	PRICE
20D064	SNOWFLAKE WHITE PEARL, 2.5L 5WGN 6EAT 2WD	\$5,000	\$34,995

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DEFAULT

From Page 1

and will ask Manglona to reconsider. He said IPI is having a lot of troubles now, but hopes to turn it around once IPI is back on its feet.

“The entry of default is a hard blow but it is not fatal. IPI can come back and IPI will come back and litigate this case to the end,” Dotts said.

He said Manglona entered the

default judgment primarily for two reasons: First, Dotts said, IPI had not paid sanctions of about \$30,000 to the plaintiffs’ attorneys, had not paid \$42,000 to plaintiffs’ technology expert, and had not paid about \$51,000 to the third-party vendor called Litigation Edge in Singapore. While it is true that IPI did not pay these amounts, Dotts said IPI did say it could pay within 60 days. “Everyone knows IPI is in financial turmoil and IPI had hoped the court would

have given the extra 60 days IPI requested,” he said.

The second reason for the default is because IPI has not complied with some discovery requests that date back to last year. “This is also mostly true, but it is not as bad as what the plaintiffs’ claimed, and since mid-May, IPI has been producing a lot of documents to try to catch up,” said Dotts, stressing that IPI was willing to produce all of the rest.

Aaron Halegua, who is one of the

lawyers of the plaintiffs said that Manglona has decided that IPI’s violations of multiple court orders, as well as its obstruction and delay in gathering evidence, were willful acts and have continued for too long.

Halegua said their clients suffered tremendously as victims of a forced labor and human trafficking scheme in which they paid high recruitment fees based on false promises, only to then work long hours under dangerous and inhumane condi-

tions. The plaintiffs’ other lawyer is Bruce Berline

The plaintiffs, who are now based in China, are suing IPI and its two former contractors for allegedly forcing them to work long hours for below minimum wage under extremely dangerous conditions at the casino worksite, among other allegations.

In its response, IPI said any wage claims by the plaintiffs are barred because they voluntarily illegally entered the CNMI to work.

TESTING

From Page 1

Commonwealth Ports Authority is very accommodating and willing to accommodate our needs here at the airport,” said Villagomez.

The expansion of the community-based testing initiative will start today, June 15. with the testing to be done on a trailer that’s been retrofitted for this purpose. This means that the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. set up the testing site and bring the trailer there, where it will be easily accessible to people within that community, Villagomez told reporters.

He explained that since some people have limited transportation, the community-based testing team and its partners decided to “reshape their efforts” in order to accommodate more people who have transportation issues.

Additionally, CHCC would also target people with language barriers to ensure that they are being given accurate information.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres echoed Villagomez and added that, moving forward, the task force and CHCC will be looking at other areas such as youth centers that are already in the communities/villages to potentially carry out testing there.

“We’ve also had several private partners, businesses that have offered

their location to do village testing,” said Torres.

Additionally, since the lack of manpower means there is preventing efforts to test all villages at the same time, the task force and CHCC will be looking at what area (villages) has not had the higher number of testing. This means that the task force and CHCC will be seeing what villages has the least amount of people who have not gotten tested for COVID-19.

“We are reaching out to all of our other partners to maximize the manpower as we go out to the villages,” said Torres.

ACS passes fire code inspection

The Alternate Care Site at the Kanoa Resort in Susupe has passed the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services’ occupancy fire code inspection last June 8.

According to Villagomez, the ACS passed with “flying colors.”

“We thank the engineer and the contractor, with no other work to put in, and we’re very proud that we met all the guidelines and the parameters to be an adequate facility, as well as a medical facility,” said Villagomez.

Additionally, the placement of medical equipment and a bench check to make sure that all the medical limitations and parameters are within limits have been done. Bench check means to test an engine or oth-

er machine or device in a workshop rather than under field conditions.

Villagomez stated that, with Dr. John Tudela’s recommendation, Esther Muña, CHCC’s chief executive officer, will be monitoring what medical staff will be assigned to the ACS.

Villagomez added that both Tudela and Muña are also making sure that the facility and the maintenance of all equipment are done in the same way as at the Commonwealth Health Center. “We continue all our efforts to close up the construction and signing off the occupancy turnover for the ACS,” said Villagomez, adding that the ACS construction is well within the target date.

COVID-19 in Guam

The Department of Public Health and Social Services in Guam have tested 108 individuals for COVID-19 last June 12 and June 13 with conclusive results. Two tested positive and 106 tested negative.

DPHSS tested:

- 93 individuals on June 12
- 15 individuals on June 13

According to the Joint Information Center in Guam, results included 72 samples from COVID-19 drive-thru testing held at the Merizo Senior Center on June 11.

To date, there have been 185 confirmed cases in Guam, with five deaths, 168 released from isolation, and 12 active cases.

BLUE

From Page 1

effective date on the [transition to Level] Blue, but there may also have additional requirement to businesses, and also to the government on some of the additional protective measures that will be in place, whether to the private sector, or even at the government offices,” Torres said.

Under Level Blue, the CNMI is anticipated to be on the tail-end of the COVID-19 curve. However, there are still risks of a second wave if preventative measures become overly relaxed. As such, social distancing and sanitation should still be observed.

“We’re just reminding everyone that as we transition to different colors in the community, or opening up more businesses, we still need to adhere to social distancing and the wearing of masks, especially in public places. We’re fighting this COVID-19 together,” the governor added.

Level Blue also signifies progress toward COVID-19 testing approximately half of the island population and the assumption should be held that at this level of testing, increasing numbers of positive cases can be expected. Last Friday, the COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth

Healthcare Corp. announced the temporary suspension of the community-based testing at the airport. The move is in line with the more expansive community-based testing, as it goes out to communities to reach more people.

In terms of testing incoming passengers, CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña said, last Friday, that everyone that arrives still gets tested, and retested after between five to seven days. She added that they are also developing new protocols as the CNMI shifts to Level Blue.

“How do we do this [and] how do we make sure that people are safe? That’s been the question that we often ask, as we’re developing the plan for the next level. The priority is our people’s safety. It may not be perfect but we’re going to try as much as possible to make it as close as [perfect],” she said.

As for businesses having to adhere to new guidelines under Level Blue, Muña acknowledged that there are several hundred of establishments that have to be evaluated, and that inspections do take time.

“It’ll be easier for those that have already been checked, but we’re going to try to make it as fair, by having more troops on the on the ground to try to do more inspections,” Muña said. “This is about safety for the

community and the consumer so we’re doing this as best as we can. But again, we want to do it right.”

What does it mean?

Level Blue corresponds with a COVID-19 rating between 1.50 and 1.79. At this level:

- Partial resumption of international flights.
- Building occupancy restrictions are increased to allow establishments to allow up to 75% of original capacity.
- Curfew amended to begin at 12am and end at 4am
- Establishments should enforce social distancing precautions and promote the wearing of face masks.
- Partial restaurant and bar service permitted to allow restaurants to serve dine-in customers under strict social distancing parameters and 50% of their originally permitted occupancy limit, in accordance with supplemental regulatory guidance from the Bureau of Environmental Health.
- All mitigation measures for the tourism industry should be in place, tested and in line with the requirements of the COVID-19 Task Force requirements to reduce risks upon the resumption of flights.
- Gatherings of people from different households of less than 25 people are permitted.

FIRE

From Page 1

end. The fire became so big that the place was still emitting smoke a day later.

According to Derric Gersonde, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services spokesperson, it started as a trash fire that rapidly spread to the IPI warehouse—a three-story concrete Building—and the fire’s area of origin was traced to its north end. The fire moved up the north end of the warehouse and fully engulfed the third floor before making its way to the second floor at the southern end where the fire was eventually contained.

Individuals who lived near the area told *Saipan Tribune* that the fire started late afternoon on Friday and continued to burn until Saturday afternoon.

In a statement it issued later, DFEMS said that Dispatch received a call at around 4:58pm last Friday, reporting a fire at the IPI warehouse in Lower Base. Two minutes later, at

5pm, firefighters and medics from the Garapan Fire Station, Kagman Fire Station, and Susupe Fire Station raced to the site, with the first unit arriving at the scene at 5:05pm. It was personnel from the Garapan Fire Station that opened the locked gate and confirmed that the trash fire had spread to the warehouse. It took the firefighters about 15 hours to stop the blaze. The fire was reportedly contained on Saturday at 8:15am. No persons were injured and no treatment was provided at the scene for medical complaints related to the fire.

As of 1pm yesterday, DFEMS Fire Investigators were still processing the scene for the cause of the fire and DFEMS personnel were still “overhauling” the scene. That means opening walls, ceilings, voids, and partitions to check for fire extension in both the pre-control and post-control phases of firefighting operations

As for the human remains that were dug up from the casino worksite in Garapan and stored at an IPI warehouse, it was learned that the bones are stored in a different warehouse.

KHS

From Page 2

Cruz Benavente

- Nina Lauren Fugaban Valdisimo
- Anhkiet Milad Huynh, Jr.
- Dionne Monique Sakisat Torres
- Kiesha Ann Tudela Duenas
- Jennifer Thorie Chong Muna
- Aira May Napalinga Ng-alongalo
- Pedro Jesus Aldan Maratita
- Margo Adel Ilisari Quitugua

Departmental Awards

- Language Arts: Thomas William Dela Cruz Benavente
- Math: Thomas William Dela Cruz Benavente
- Foreign Language: Vioncee Mahea Villagomez Reyes, Kiesha Ann Tudela Duenas, Hannah Pangelinan Palacios, Kyanna Victoria Lizama Norita, Dionne Monique Sakisat Torres, Nina Lauren Fugaban Valdisimo.
- Science: Anthony Kevin Ada Agulto, Jr.
- Social Studies: Thomas William Dela Cruz Benavente
- PE: Kyanna Victoria Lizama Norita, Margo Adel Ilisari Quitugua, Dionne Monique Sakisat Torres, Jennifer Thorie Chong Muna, Samuel James Quitugua Noisom Alvarez.
- Art: Kelly Ann Sablan Pangelinan
- Computers: Jovan Dewayne Rosario Camacho
- Culinary Art: Dionne Monique Sakisat Torres, Chloe Margaret Tagabuel Ramon, Diony Jr. Reyes Camacho, Keith Gerard Maratita Villagomez.

- Cooperative Education: Jemalynn Aureyah Pangelinan Iguel
- Yearbook – Anhkiet Huynh Jr., Glenn Michael Lizama Schardt, Jr., Angela Janelle Manibusan, Kyanna Victoria Lizama Norita, Thomas William Dela Cruz Benavente, Shanae Aaliyah Nestor.

President’s Award For Educational Excellence (Gold)

- Aira May Napalinga Ngalongalo
- Alnisia Siwarong Kapileo Remoket
- Angelina Jolyn Rechebei Camacho
- Anhkiet Milad Huynh, Jr.
- Christian Anthony Barcinas Alepuyo
- Darlyn Mae Iglesias Maca
- Dionne Monique Sakisat Torres
- Ellsbeth Dulei Aguon
- Enrico Jose Galicia Santos
- Hannah Pangelinan Palacios
- Jaymadee Kewei Kapileo Ruloked
- Jennifer Thorie Chong Muna
- Jerrilyn Jane Cruz Reyes
- Jovan Dewayne Rosario Camacho
- Keith Gerard Maratita Villagomez
- Kiesha Ann Tudela Duenas
- Kinai Kimberly Quitano Pua
- Kyanna Victoria Lizama Norita
- Margo Adel Ilisari Quitugua
- Nina Lauren Fugaban Valdisimo
- Pedro Jesus Aldan Maratita
- Thomas William Dela Cruz Benavente

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

9th Circuit affirms dismissal of ex-Telesource staff's disability suit

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has affirmed the U.S. District Court for the CNMI's order that dismissed a \$2-million employment discrimination lawsuit filed by a former employee against the then-Telesource CNMI Inc. over his alleged termination due to his disability from an accident.

In its order last Wednesday, the Ninth Circuit found that District Court Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona properly dismissed Garabed O. Mirzoian's lawsuit for failure to exhaust all administrative remedies available to him. His employment was terminated in 2006 but did not file a discrimination charge with the U.S.

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission until 2015.

Ninth Circuit judges Mark J. Bennett, Richard A. Paez, and Edward Leavy cited a statute that states a charge must be made with the EEOC within 180 days of the alleged unlawful employment practice or within 300 days if a charge is first made with a state agency.

Although Mirzoian filed a discrimination complaint with the CNMI Department of Labor within 18 days of his termination, Labor had no work-sharing agreement with the EEOC, the judges said. Therefore, they said, Mirzoian's Labor complaint would not be considered timely filed with

the EEOC.

The judges also found that Manglona did not abuse her discretion in declining to apply equitable tolling and denied his motion to disqualify Manglona from presiding over the case.

In a *pro se* complaint (filed without a lawyer), Mirzoian sued former Telesource chief executive officer Nidal Z. Zayed and general manager Michael N. El-Rahl with wrongful termination, employment discrimination, disability discrimination, for pain and suffering, and emotional distress.

According to Mirzoian, Telesource terminated him in 2006 after he was injured in a vehicular accident involving two buses and that he suffered serious injuries. Mirzoian sued.

The District Court dismissed the case in February 2016 due to Mirzoian's failure to establish that he was entitled to equitable tolling of the 180-day period to file a charge with the EEOC or a 300-day period if he first files a charge with a state agency. In this case, the actions complained of occurred in 2006, and Mirzoian did not file charges with EEOC until 2015.

Because Mirzoian did not explain why he filed over nine years after the actions at issue, the District Court allowed Mirzoian to refile the case to address this deficiency. Mirzoian then filed a first amended complaint.

In January 2018, Manglona dismissed Mirzoian's lawsuit for lack of jurisdiction, concluding that the plaintiff failed

to exhaust his administrative remedies. Manglona determined that the amended complaint fails to comply with the court's prior order. Manglona then closed the case.

Mirzoian appealed to the Ninth Circuit to reverse the dismissal. In July 2018, the Ninth Circuit vacated the dismissal. The judges pointed out that it is not clear from the District Court's order whether the court considered the effect of Mirzoian's filing of the complaint with Labor on the issue of exhaustion of administrative remedies. The Ninth Circuit judges remanded Mirzoian's case for the District Court to consider whether the plaintiff could be deemed to have constructively filed his claims with the EEOC

on the day he filed his charge with CNMI Labor, and therefore exhausted his administrative remedies at that time.

In July 2019, Manglona dismissed Mirzoian's lawsuit for the third time. The judge found that the plaintiff has failed to state a claim on which relief can be granted because he failed to timely pursue administrative remedies with the EEOC or any other agency that is authorized to investigate his discrimination claim.

Mirzoian then appealed again to the Ninth Circuit to reverse Manglona's dismissal of the case.

Telesource changed its name to Pernix Group Inc. and El-Rahl and Zayed are now based in the company's offices in Fiji Islands and Illinois, respectively. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

Teteto Beach is voted No. 1 for 3rd year in a row

For the third straight year, Teteto Beach on the island of Rota was selected as the No. 1 Readers' Choice Best Beach Overseas at the Dive and Travel Awards of the annual Marine Diving Fair in Japan.

Although the fair has been postponed, awards were announced by the organizers in April 2020.

In addition, Megumi Takaku of Blue Palms Dive Service Rota again won first place

Readers' Choice Favorite Dive Guide Overseas for second consecutive year, while Miyuki Ishihara of Super Fish Diving placed third. Blue Palms also won second place as the Readers' Choice Favorite Dive Operator, Overseas for a second consecutive year.

"It's incredible that after so many years of the Dive and Travel Awards, the Marianas continues to remain top-of-mind for divers and watersports lovers in Japan," said

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "Through the years, we have won many awards, and it has always been one of MVA's goals to continue to promote our destination for people to remember our pristine natural beauty and professional and friendly tourism workers of the Marianas."

In addition, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota combined won second place for the second year in a row as Readers' Choice Best Diving Area Overseas (the destination won fourth place last year) and first place Diving Destination You Want to Go Next.

Marine Diving Fair is Japan's leading consumer diving show, targeting consumers and trade representatives in Japan and other Asian countries. The fair is usually held at Ikebukuro Sunshine City Convention Center in Tokyo and is tentatively rescheduled to later this year. **(PR)**

Starting Thursday, USCIS will accept only revised Form I-129 CW

Starting this Thursday, June 18, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will only accept the revised Form I-129CW, according to USCIS public affairs Claire K. Nicholson.

In an email to *Saipan Tribune* Saturday, Nicholson said USCIS will publish the revised

Form I-129C on uscis.gov on or before this Thursday. Starting Thursday, USCIS will reject any older edition of Form I-129CW postmarked on or after that day.


Last May 14, USCIS published an interim final rule implementing the NMI U.S. Workforce Act of 2018. Nich-

olson said the interim final rule, which will take effect Thursday, includes a revised Form I-129CW Petition for a CNMI-only Nonimmigrant Worker and instructions.

The purpose of the interim final rule is to protect U.S. workers in the CNMI and ensure that U.S. workers will not

be displaced or be a competitive disadvantage for employment.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres earlier stated that the guidance is important to the businesses and employers, while also ensuring that the CNMI protects US workers here in the Marianas. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB20-DCCA/CCDF-074

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 01, 2020 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "I" VEHICLE (A) AND ONE (1) CLASS "F" VEHICLE (B) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****MUST USE A FACE MASK BEFORE ENTERING THE OFFICE****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY, DCCA

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

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wushin2@pticom.com for more inquiry.**



**NORTHERN MARIANAS
HOUSING CORPORATION**

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: June 1, 2020 CLOSING DATE: June 16, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary:
2020-004	CDBG-DR Planning & Support Program Manager	UNGRADED \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00-per annum
2020-005	CDBG-DR Project Manager	UNGRADED \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00-per annum

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays. You may also access the application online at www.nmhcgov.net.


Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office; Email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net; Drop-off application at the NMHC Drop Box located in front of the NMHC building.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director



**MARIANAS
VISITORS AUTHORITY**

P.O. BOX 500861 CK
SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 664-3200/1
FAX: (670) 664-3237
info@mymarianas.com
www.mymarianas.com

REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.** in the Governor's Conference Room, Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

- 1) Preliminary Matters**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes
 - a. Regular Board Meeting – May 27, 2020
- 2) Public Comments**
- 3) Committee Reports**
 1. Finance Committee
 - a. Fund Status Report
- 4) New Business**
 1. Marianas Visitors Authority By-Laws
 2. Managing Director Contract
 3. Media FAM
- 5) Executive Session**
- 6) Miscellaneous/Announcements**
- 7) Adjournment**

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

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Tel # : (670) 234-8079 / 287-8079

UOG ROTC names 'Top Cadet' and other awardees

The University of Guam's Army ROTC program honored several of its cadets and recent graduates with awards at its virtual commissioning ceremony last May 22. The ceremony also awarded ROTC cadets at the Northern Marianas College on Saipan who will complete their officer training through UOG.

"The cadets worked really hard this year, and they absolutely deserve the recognition they are getting," said Master Sgt. Rocky Duran, senior military science instructor at the University of Guam. "The awards will look great on their

future résumés, but more importantly, they signify everything that the cadets did to make themselves better leaders this year."

Brendan Santos, who will graduate from the University of Guam this month and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army on May 23, received several major awards, including the Top Cadet of the Program Award, the Superior Cadet Decoration Award, and the George C. Marshall Leadership Award. He also served as the cadet battalion commander last fall.

"It is an honor to receive



2nd Lt. Brendan Santos was named Top Cadet of the Program and received several other awards during the University of Guam's ROTC Program Awards Ceremony on May 22.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

this award among all the intelligent and hardworking cadets in the Triton Warrior Battalion," Santos said. "To my peers, cadre, family, and fellow cadets, I thank you for your support and assistance throughout my college career. I know that the skills I have learned from you all will be useful during my time in the Army, and my future troops will benefit from the values that I have developed from my time in the Triton Warrior Battalion."

University of Guam:

- Top Cadet of the Program: Brendan Santos
- Top Freshman Cadet: Amber Pangelinan

Granillo named director of Pacific Islands SBDC

The School of Business and Public Administration at the University of Guam has announced the appointment of Frederick Granillo as the director of the Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center Network.

Granillo comes to the center with more than 31 years of industry experience,

■ Top Sophomore Cadet: Amarah San Nicolas

■ Top Junior Cadet: John Bautista

■ Top Senior Cadet: Kortney Camacho, Lucand Camacho

■ Superior Cadet Decoration Award: Enriqueo Nedlic, Louis Randall, John Martinez, Brendan Santos

■ USAA "Spirit" Award: Vicente Bamba

■ Military Order of the World Wars Medal of Merit: Brian Borja, Amarah San Nicolas, Brian Legaspi

■ Military Order of Foreign Wars Medal: John Perez, Louis Randall

■ Military History Best Student Award: Lorenz Junio

■ Physical Fitness Performance Award: Brendan Santos, Vicente Bamba, Lucand Camacho, Jeanie Nguyen, John Perez, Justin Cayading, Brian Legaspi, Larry Llegado, John Martinez, Brandon Pablo, Adam Pangelinan, Brandon Salas

■ Sergeant York Award: Lucand Camacho

■ Cadet Achievement Award: Jgeth Bautista, Louis Randall, Lorenz Junio, Justin

particularly in the areas of accounting, finance, and income taxation. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting from California State University, Los Angeles, and a Master of Business Administration in management from Amberton University (Texas). (PR)



Granillo

Cayading, Alex Aguero, Vicente Bamba

■ Cadet Commendation Award: Christian Carino, Amos Dumapat, Joseph Aquino, Jude Tenorio, John Bautista, Jordana Finona, Larry Llegado, Brandon Pablo

■ "And Then Some" Award: Amber Pangelinan, Brian Legaspi, Shawn Balinas

■ George C. Marshall Leadership Award: Brendan Santos

Northern Marianas College:

■ Top Cadet of the Pro-

gram: Gavin Pangelinan

■ Top Freshman Cadet: Kody Babauta

■ Top Sophomore Cadet: Bert Magallano

■ USAA "Spirit" Award: Sean Japor

■ Cadet Achievement Award: Bert Magallano

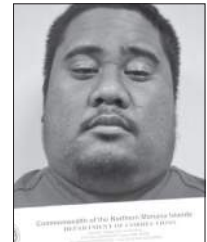
■ "And Then Some" Award: Gavin Pangelinan

The UOG Army ROTC program was established in October 1979 and is celebrating 40 years of producing dynamic leaders for Guam, the Pacific, and the United States. (UOG)

Man arrested for alleged disturbance, burglary try

On Thursday, June 11, 2020, at about 1:26am, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a 911 call reporting an attempted burglary in Chalan Kanoa.

Police who were dispatched to the scene met with the caller who stated that a male individual had tried to enter the victim's home before realizing that the victim was home and awake. The victim told officers that the suspect fled on foot and was



Kaipat

described as heavysset, short, with short hair, shirtless, wearing gray shorts, and barefoot.

The officer notified dispatch as another officer went to a neighboring house where the officers came upon Jody Kaipat eating near the doorway, matching the description that the victim gave earlier. Officers told Kaipat that they wanted to ask him a few questions outside the house. As officers were interviewing

Kaipat, the victim positively identified Kaipat as the suspect who was trying to gain access into the home. Kaipat was detained as officers were interviewing the victim.

The victim stated that he was in his home when he noticed an individual

trying to gain access into the vehicles outside by checking if the doors were left unlocked. Shortly after, Kaipat walked toward the victim's front door and tried to open it when the victim asked the suspect, "What's happening here?" Kaipat then fled on foot before the police arrived.

At about 1:44am, Kaipat was placed under arrest for disturbing the peace and attempted burglary. He was cleared at the Kanoa Resort COVID-19 quarantine site before being transported to the Department of Corrections where he was booked and detained. (PR)

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE OF BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that there will Board Committee Meetings on Thursday, June 18, 2020, beginning 9:30 a.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom at the Airport Fire Station, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan.

AGENDA

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (June 03, 2020)
- II. Public Comments
- III. Old Business:
 1. Draft Fiscal Year 2021 Budget
- IV. New Business:
 1. Sanction and Supplemental Budget Request: Saipan International Airport Tower Renovations – A&E Amendment No. 1
- V. Executive Session (if needed)
- VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

AIRPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (June 03, 2020)
- II. Public Comments
- III. Old Business:
 1. Solar updates
 2. Mobil
 3. Lease: United Cargo Facility
- IV. New Business:
 1. For information only: Saipan International Airport Tower Renovations – A&E Amendment No. 1
 2. Airline Incentives
 3. COVID-19 Mitigation Plan
- V. Executive Session (if needed)
- VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

PERSONNEL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (June 03, 2020)
- II. Public Comments
- III. Old Business: None.
- IV. New Business:
 1. Hazard Pay
 2. Position Replacement: Rota Flight Service
- V. Executive Session (if needed)
- VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

SEAPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (June 03, 2020)
- II. Public Comments
- III. Old Business:
 1. Industrial Drive status update
 2. Tinian Marine Stevedore
 3. Saipan Stevedore Lease
- IV. New Business: None.
- V. Executive Session (if needed)
- VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

We will stream these meetings live on Facebook. Be sure to like the "Commonwealth Ports Authority" Facebook page to view the live coverage. Persons are welcome to submit written or oral testimony on the agenda items.

Barrie C. Toves Airport Facilities Chair Ramon A. Tebuteb Financial Affairs Chair Pete P. Reyes Seaport Facilities Chair Joseph M. Diaz Personnel Affairs Chair



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net



Pursuant to P. L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its quarterly board meeting on **Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 2:30p.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Governor's Office Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairman's Report
- VII. Director's Report
- VIII. Investigator's Report
- IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
 - A. Governor's Office
 - B. Legislature
- X. Old Business
 - Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
 - 1.) Legal Services Request #20-120
- XI. New Business
- XII. Applications for Board's Review
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
- XIV. Announcements
 - A. Next Meeting Date
 - B. Adjournment of Meeting

Oliver M. Manglona (F0489)

Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 7862 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 285-3750 | Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner John Lairopi Mettao

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Civil Action No. 20-0163
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF)
MAGDALENA LAIROPI)
METTAO,)
Deceased.)
NOTICE OF HEARING ON VERIFIED PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR; and
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Judge: Camacho
Date: Thursday, July 9, 2020
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Courtroom: Supreme Court, courtroom

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE MAGDALENA LAIROPI METTAO:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner John Lairopi Mettao, has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Magdalena Lairopi Mettao, Decedent. The attorney for Petitioner is Oliver Manalang Manglona, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 7862 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition for Letters of Administration by John Lairopi Mettao, as Petitioner, is scheduled to be heard on **Thursday, July 9, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guma' Hustia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the Decedent or her Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of the first publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to **OLIVER M. MANGLONA, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated.**

Dated this 8th day of June, 2020.
/s/ Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk of Court

Oliver M. Manglona (F0489)

Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 7862 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 285-3750 | Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner Lisa Manglona Dela Cruz

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Civil Action No. 20-0142
IN THE MATTER OF)
HE ESTATE OF)
FRANCISCO)
SANTOS)
DELA CRUZ,)
Deceased.)
NOTICE OF HEARING ON VERIFIED PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR
Judge: Joseph N. Camacho
Date: July 9, 2020
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Courtroom: Supreme Court Courtroom

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, Joshua Santos Duenas, has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Francisco Santos Dela Cruz, Decedent. The attorney for Petitioner is Oliver Manalang Manglona, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 7862 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition for Letters of Administration by Lisa Manglona Dela Cruz, as Petitioner, is scheduled to be heard on **July 9, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guma' Hustia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the Decedent or his Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of the first publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to **OLIVER M. MANGLONA, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated.**

Dated this 28th day of May, 2020.
/s/ Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk of Court

Missing person: Jason Fitial

On Friday, June 12, 2020, at about 1:44pm, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a 911 call reporting a possible missing individual in San Jose, Saipan.



Fitial

Family members told the officer that Jason Fitial was last seen on Wednesday, June 10, 2020, at about 9:30am. The individual ar-

rived at their home in San Jose, and asked to borrow a machete to cut down some fruits from a nearby tree. The family member did not check to see if Fitial went into the wooded area behind the home.

Fitial was last seen wearing a blue, red, and yellow striped shirt, with short pants. **(PR)**

Docomo, PSS help AP students get internet access

The CNMI Public School System Advanced Placement Program is partnering with Docomo Pacific, Inc to ensure that AP students that need broadband access are provided with portable wireless devices known as MiFis to complete their online AP Exams.

MiFis are wireless devices that students can take home with them to get free high-speed internet access via Docomo Pacific's network. Each AP student that did not have access to home internet was loaned a MiFi device from Docomo Pacific. PSS funded the broadband access for these students for the duration of the AP exam testing schedule.

"In light of the impact of the coronavirus and subsequent closure of schools, the College Board developed

secure, online free-response exams for each course, with exam questions, only including topics and skills most AP teachers and students have already covered in class by early March. The AP Program at PSS understands that not all students have internet access and devices at home, therefore, providing MiFi devices and broadband internet access to AP students for their AP exams will level the playing field for our students and will help our students become competitors in an ever-changing technological world," according to a statement from the PSS Office of Student Support Services. "Special thanks to Docomo Pacific and the PSS AP school-level teams for supporting this endeavor." **(PR)**

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

New hours at CNMI Census Call Center

The 2020 CNMI Census office changed its hours of operation for the Call Center effective yesterday, June 14, 2020, from 11am to 7pm. If you have any questions or concerns, contact the CNMI Census office at 682-2020. **(PR)**

6.2-magnitude quake hits Saipan

At 7:08am on June 14, 2020, a report of a 6.2-magnitude earthquake occurred 415 kilometers north of Saipan in the CNMI. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. **(PR)**

SSHS report card distribution today

Saipan Southern High School report card distribution will be done today, June 15, 2020, from 9am to 4pm, at the main office. Underclass and book drop off is from June 15 to 18, 2020, from 9am to 12pm, at the main office. If you have any other questions or concerns call the SSHS main office at 237-3710. **(PR)**

6.7-magnitude quake

hits Naze

At 2:08am on June 14, 2020, a report of a 6.7-magnitude earthquake occurred 131 kilometers west northwest of Naze, Japan. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. **(PR)**

JKPL's Package-to-Go registration now closed

As of Saturday, June 13, 2020, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library has met its quota for the Summer Reading Program Package-to-Go. Registration is now closed. Community members, businesses and government agencies who would like to sponsor the program may contact the library at (670) 235-7316 or 7323 or 7322. **(PR)**

SHEFA deadlines

The deadline to apply for Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance is on or before July 1. The deadline for the supporting documents is on or before Sept. 30, 2020 along with your MOA if you are approved.

All supporting documents must be submitted at the same time via email to saipanshefa@gmail.com or mail (except for your official transcript which could be sent via e-script, Student National Clearing House, etc., directly from your insti-

tution to SHEFA via email or mail). We will not be accepting incomplete documents.

If you do not have access to either and need to visit our office, email or call 233-5995 to schedule an appointment. For more information or to download the application or MOA, visit www.saipanshefa.net. You can also find SHEFA updates on financial assistance, office hours, job vacancies, and other news on our Facebook page @ Saipan SHEFA. **(PR)**

Navy trainings set

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Dandan-Malojloj and Radio Barrigada on June 13, from 1pm to 11:55pm. Blank ammunition will be used for this training. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training at the Naval Magazine at the following dates and times:

- June 15-16, from 9:30am to 2pm
- June 17, from 9am to 4pm
- June 18, from 9:30am to 2pm

Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity due to the training.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in the vicinity of Agat Bay and Outer Apra Harbor

on June 15- 20, from 1pm to 11:55pm. The public is advised to be aware of the training and requested to remain clear of units in the area for the duration of this event.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Dandan-Malojloj and Radio Barrigada on June 15-20, from 1pm to 11:55pm. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity due to the training.

The U.S. Navy will conduct live fire exercises in open ocean on June 15-20, from 1pm to 11:55pm at the following coordinates: 13 26"N/145 08"E, 13 42"N/144 36"E. Marine vessels are advised to remain clear of the area for the duration of the event and to monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast Notice to Mariners for advisories.

The U.S. Navy will also conduct live fire exercises in Warning Area 13 and Farallon de Medinilla on June 15-21, from 10am to 2am daily. Marine vessels are advised to remain clear of Farallon de Medinilla by 12 nautical miles for the duration of the event and to monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast Notice to Mariners for advisories.

These trainings support readiness and are critical to developing the skills needed to respond to operational missions throughout the region to ensure a stable, free, and open Indo-Pacific. **(PR)**



CNMI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The CNMI Department of Commerce, Central Statistics Division is now conducting the CNMI 2020 Prevailing Wage Study (2020 PWS) survey and notifies all businesses and employers, private and public, in the CNMI to log on to the CSD Data Collection Portal and complete the 2020 PWS survey questionnaire.

Every business and employer, even if you do not have any employees, is urged to complete this survey before June 30, 2020.

2020 PWS Data Collection Portal Link:
<http://cnmidata.commerce.gov.mp/>



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

RFQ20-GOV-076

ASSESSMENT & DESIGN OF THE FIRE ALARM AND FIRE SPRINKLER/PROTECTION SYSTEM at the DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS in SUSUPE, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lieutenant Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Capital Improvement Program, (collectively, "Commonwealth") is soliciting sealed proposals from Qualified Engineers to provide engineering services for the assessment and design of the Fire Alarm and Fire Sprinkler/Protection System at the Department of Corrections in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This project will be funded by the 702 Covenant Funding under the Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

Procurement procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work and submittal requirements at the Office of Management & Budget, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or request electronic mail (attn: Nerissa Benavente at nerissa.cip@gmail.com) beginning June 16, 2020, during working hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Monday through Thursday, except on holidays). Submittal of all qualifications must precisely follow the submittal requirements identified in the scope of work and submittal requirements.

Selection of individuals or firms for the provision of services shall be guided by the Commonwealth Department of Finance Division of Procurement & Supply, Procurement Regulations §7070-30.3-305. To qualify, firms must have a valid CNMI Business License, and be currently licensed to practice engineering in the CNMI, and must hold a Certificate of Authorization, if applicable.

Statement of Qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330 or the latest version of Standard Forms. Only professionally licensed firms with a valid CNMI business license will be considered. Statement of Qualifications will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualification (Personnel, Education and Professional Licenses)	30 points
2. Experiences (similar projects)	40 points
3. Project Approach	15 points
4. Workload and Resources	15 points

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three ranked firms or with all the firms. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The selected firm will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Qualifications statements must be sealed and marked "RFQ20-GOV-076, DESIGN FOR A FIRE ALARM AND FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, SAIPAN." For proposers within the CNMI, one (1) original, one (1) hard copy AND ONE (1) PDF ELECTRONIC COPY (Electronic copy must be in a flash drive) and must be submitted to the Acting Director of Procurement and Supply, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP, no later than 9:00 a.m., July 8, 2020. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to propose must be received by the Acting Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 9:00 a.m., ChST, on July 8, 2020 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to a.maofoa@dof.gov.mp. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one (1) original, one (1) hard copy AND ONE (1) PDF ELECTRONIC COPY (Electronic copy must be in a flash drive) must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 08, 2020, and mailed to the Acting Director of Procurement and Supply to P.O. Box 510008 C.K., Saipan MP, 96950 and must be received by the Acting Director of Procurement and Supply by no later than July 17, 2020. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

BREACH OF ETHICAL STANDARDS (To be part of Solicitation for Quotes, ITBs and RFPs)

• **Gratuities.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefore. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(a).

• **Kickbacks.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of subcontract or order. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(b).

• **Contingent Fees.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-730.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI government.

Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

Francisco C. Agon
Acting Director, Procurement & Supply

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

WHO's fumbled COVID-19 message

Don't shrug off your risk of COVID-19, especially if you've been in large crowds or other high-risk settings recently, simply because no symptoms were apparent in those nearby. This is an important public health message, one that needs amplifying after a World Health Organization communications fumble earlier this week.

On Monday, WHO epidemiologist Dr. Maria Van Kerkhove generated controversy when she responded to a question at one of WHO's routine news conferences. Her answer lacked clarity and context. Reports afterward misleadingly summarized that transmission by asymptomatic people is "very rare." Coverage also wrongly suggested that this was a new WHO position.

Medical experts responded with alarm and disbelief because the agency appeared to ignore accumulating research about COVID-19's transmission by people before they develop symptoms. The statement also seemed to blow up one of the key rationales for social distancing. Indeed, some social media users quickly jumped to this simplistic conclusion: Since only those with COVID-19 symptoms are contagious, sick people can just stay home and no one else needs to worry about contracting it.

If only it were that easy. "WHO says asymptomatic transmission of COVID is very rare. Just ignore this. It is not true," Mayo Clinic Dr. Vincent Rajkumar posted on Twitter.

In an interview with an editorial writer, renowned infectious disease expert Michael Osterholm also expressed concerns about the WHO statement and underscored the continued importance of social distancing. In addition, he said that the WHO effectively "walked back" its statement Tuesday morning.

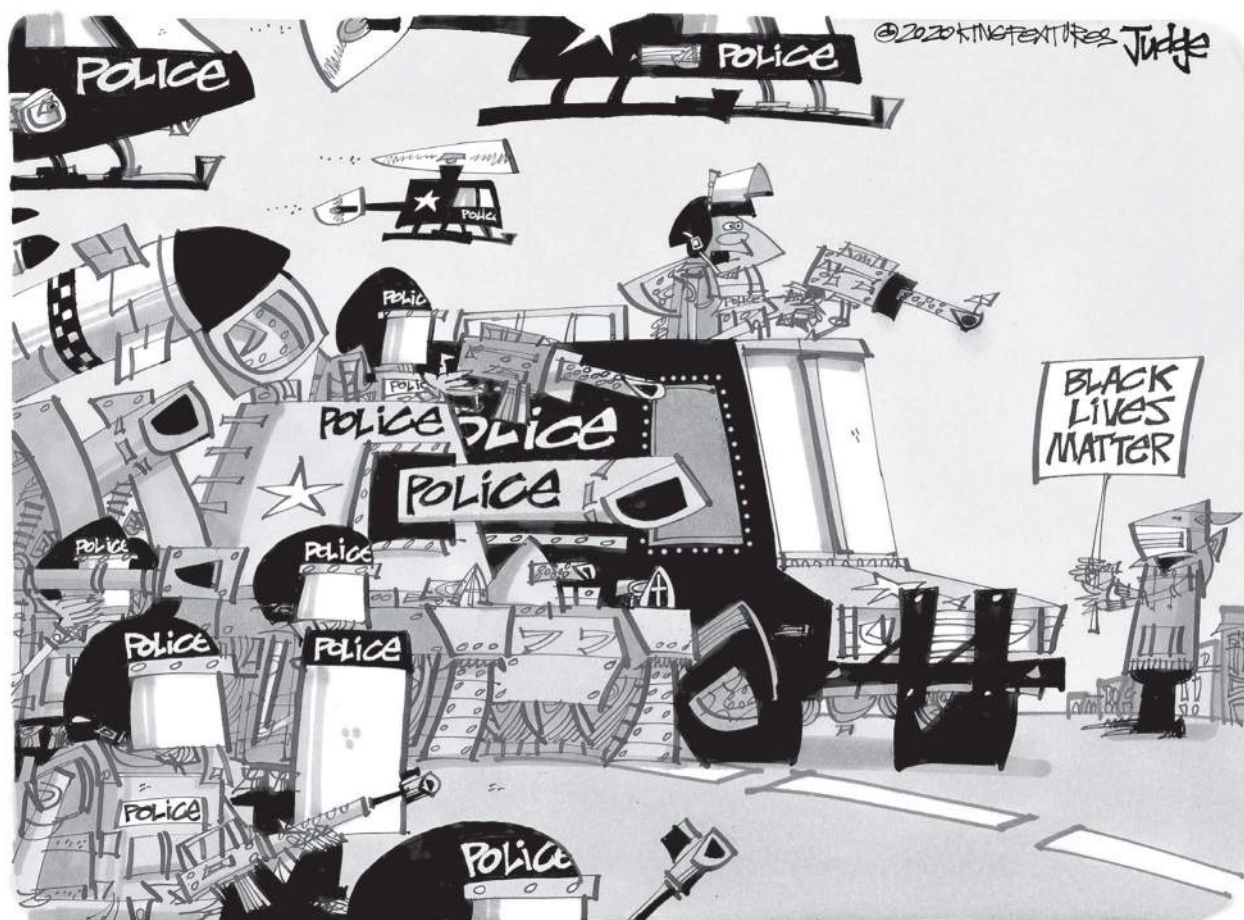
The organization livestreamed a follow-up question-and-answer session with Van Kerkhove and another scientist, Dr. Michael Ryan, an Irish surgeon who heads the WHO's emergency programs. Van Kerkhove swiftly clarified that people without symptoms can transmit the virus and that models show it plays a significant role in fueling COVID-19 transmission, though further study is needed.

Ryan pointed out that the Monday "statement" by Van Kerkhove was only a response to a reporter's question. It did not represent an institutional shift in policy on asymptomatic spread or reverse any WHO position on population-wide mitigation measures needed to control COVID-19.

Much of the confusion appears rooted in what Van Kerkhove originally meant by "asymptomatic." Some people infected do not go on to develop any symptoms. It's not clear how unusual this is. Others may be "presymptomatic," meaning they're infected and later go on to develop symptoms. Van Kerkhove did not adequately distinguish between those groups in her original remarks.

It's difficult to track infections spread by those who are asymptomatic. That may explain why these individuals rarely appear to be a source of infection (our guess is

See COVID-19 on Next Page



"SO WHAT MAKES YOU THINK WE MIGHT BE OVERFUNDED?"

Our Civil War never ends. It's not even intermission

Sometimes I think that maybe the Civil War is over. But then something comes along to remind me how, in many minds, the war never really ended. Once it was fought with swords, now it's with symbols.

Conflicts break out over flags, movies, statues, stock car races and the names of military bases. The good guys still appear to be winning, as far as I can tell, but not without some effort.

Among the latest battlefronts is the new HBO Max streaming service, which is hitting the pause button on plans to include "Gone With the Wind" in its rotation of movies. That announcement happened to come a day after the Los Angeles Times ran an op-ed by John Ridley, a director, novelist and Oscar-winning screenwriter, requesting the move.

Ridley's complaints were the usual ones I've heard and even expressed myself from time to time. The classic multiple Oscar-winning 1939 plantation potboiler depicts a jolly, noble, romanticized version of slavery in the Old South, and none of its horrors. It props up the noble "lost cause" version of secession, which was fundamentally about the perpetuation of slavery, and props up the "heritage, not hate" defense of such iconography as the Confederate battle flag.

HBO Max plans to show the movie, preceded by explanatory information to put it into "historical context." And you thought it was long before!

Speaking of the battle flag, NASCAR announced June 10 that it was banning that distinctive flag from all its events, a move that Bubba Wallace, the only African American full-time driver in NASCAR's top-flight racing series, compared to a checkered flag as a personal "win."

"No one should feel uncomfortable when they come to a NASCAR race," he said on CNN. "So it starts with Confederate flags. Get them out of here. They have no place for them."

His outspokenness didn't end there. Amid ongoing national and worldwide protests following the death of George Floyd, an unarmed black man under a white police officer's knee, Wallace wore a shirt that read, "I Can't Breathe/Black Lives Matter" for that afternoon's race at Atlanta Motor Speedway—and had the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter painted on his car.

Since NASCAR is known to be more Trump Country than coastal elite, that was a pretty bold move.

Yet it also seemed fitting with the times in which tens of thousands of mostly nonviolent protesters were taking to the streets out of rage over Floyd's death.

More media people were rethinking how police, central to some of the most popular shows on television, were being por-

By **CLARENCE PAGE**

Chicago Tribune

Clarence Page is a member of the Chicago Tribune Editorial Board. Readers may send him email at cpage@tribune.com.



trayed. On June 9, "Cops," known for its "Bad Boys" theme song, was canceled after 32 seasons. A&E dropped its own police reality show, "Live PD," from its schedule.

Even "Paw Patrol," a Nickelodeon cartoon show for kids about some doggy detectives, was said to be canceled in viral rumors that turned out to be untrue. With all the other unexpected cancellations, who could blame anyone for being fooled?

By midweek, another surprising front opened up in the new Civil War over symbols. President Donald Trump overruled an announcement by his own secretary of defense that he would consider changing the names on military bases across the south that had been named after Confederate generals. I don't know if the president knows much about history, but he certainly knows where his core constituents are concentrated.

I'm not surprised by that, but it does put Trump in a tricky situation to defend the honoring of officers who fought against the country of which he was elected president. But he did promise from his first days as a candidate to do things differently from other presidents.

For now, his big battle is for reelection of this country, which was divided along these cultural lines and continues to be divided today.

All of these issues—from Hollywood to NASCAR to military base names—are markers of our division as a nation of many tribes, who are trying mightily to pull together in a common identity. With that in mind, it seems much more than coincidental that we Americans find ourselves wrestling with these issues now.

We are shocked by the death of George Floyd. Many Americans are shocked and angry to witness the systemic failures of our justice system. It feels as though the Civil War never ended. Only the battle lines have moved.

Maybe the HBO Max programmers have the right idea. Censoring uncomfortable words, names or expressions, or sweeping them under the rug, doesn't work in the long run. We need to learn how to talk to one another—before the next war breaks out.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Reparations are the answer to protesters' demands for racial justice

As protests continue to convulse cities across America, many wonder where we go from here. It's impossible to know the future. But if efforts do not include meaningful reparations for African Americans, the omnipresent injustices we face will not be resolved.

For a long time, the word "reparations" was a nonstarter, but it is finally losing its taboo. The movement to provide financial redress to African Americans for centuries of subjugation and racial terror was already growing last year. HR 40, a bill that would establish a commission to study the legacy of slavery and develop reparations proposals to Congress, is enjoying a surge in support. Groundbreaking reparations legislation has been approved in Evanston, Ill. And a bill has been introduced in the California State Assembly that would create a task force to study the impact of slavery and offer proposals for reparations for African Americans in the state.

The outpouring of anger in every corner of this country in recent days—more than 400 years after the first enslaved Africans arrived in America—could finally put reparative justice within reach.

The aversion to making amends for systemic racism is perhaps most evident in my hometown of Tulsa, Okla., which recently commemorated the 99th anniversary of the Greenwood massacre.

On May 31, 1921, thousands of white Tulsans, 2,000 of whom were deputized by the police, stormed the Greenwood neighborhood, a community known as "Black Wall Street." In one day and night, the nation's most prosperous black community was reduced to rubble. Hundreds were killed, and more than 10,000 black Tulsans were left injured, homeless and destitute.

For decades, Greenwood managed to flourish despite racist Jim Crow laws in Oklahoma. In a matter of hours, millions of dollars in hard-fought wealth—property, homes, businesses, investments—burned to ashes. About 35 square blocks, including 1,200 homes and scores of businesses, were destroyed. Tulsa has not been the same since.

Nearly 100 years later, Tulsa is still suffering from the legacy of that violence and racism. In the segregated city, more than 33% of residents in predominantly black North Tulsa live in poverty compared with less than 14% of residents in South Tulsa. Black Tulsans are subjected to police violence—such as the use of Tasers and pepper spray—2.7 times more than whites, according to Human Rights Watch.

For the African American community, the Greenwood massacre isn't just history—it is felt to this day.

Take, for example, the story of my client Lessie Benningfield Randle, the last known survivor of the massacre still living in Tulsa. She recalled "seeing bodies in the streets" and having to flee from her grandmother's house as the white people were "trying to kill all the black men."

Most of the survivors were never able to recover financially from the devastation. Over the last century, Tulsa should have made amends for the bloodshed. Instead, the city engaged in a 75-year cover-up so thorough that I didn't learn my community was the site of a massacre until I got to college.

When Mother Randle turned 105 last year, she said there was one thing she wanted for her birthday: the restoration of her dilapidated home. Several prominent black residents of Tulsa raised funds to make it happen.

I visited Mother Randle in her home before the volunteers renovated it for her birthday. I found a disintegrating structure—the perfect metaphor for Tulsa's refusal to accept real responsibility for the massacre and to deliver justice to its victims. Instead of inheriting Black Wall Street's wealth, survivors like Mother Randle and their descendants inherited neglect, indifference and decades of obstruction from the city of Tulsa.

In 2000, a bipartisan panel of experts known as the Tulsa Race Riot Commission recommended that survivors, descendants and the community of Greenwood be paid cash in restitution. But Tulsa opposed payment, and the state issued decorative medals instead. A federal lawsuit filed on behalf of survivors a few years later was dismissed after the city hid

By **DAMARIO SOLOMON SIMMONS**

Los Angeles Times

Damario Solomon Simmons is a civil rights attorney and an adjunct professor of African and African American studies at the University of Oklahoma.



behind a statute of limitations argument.

Recently, Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum dismissed the idea of monetary reparative justice, stating that it "divides the community around something we should be united around." He is silent on why the community shouldn't unite around Mother Randle's struggle to be compensated for what was lost. He remains silent as a growing number of human rights organizations, and a new report from Human Rights Watch, have concluded that the racial disparities in Tulsa are dire, and reparations are overdue.

Meanwhile, in response to COVID-19, the city created the Resilience and Recovery Fund to provide interest-free loans to small businesses. Nonprofits are getting grants of up to \$20,000 through the Vision Arts Resilience and Recovery Program. There is no doubt that our city's small businesses and nonprofits deserve financial assistance now. But the decision to hand out cash is hardly something all Tulsans are united around, yet the city realized that it is the right thing to do.

It's time for Tulsa officials do the right thing for racial justice and support reparations for victims like Mother Randle and their descendants.

At the national level, federal leaders need to support monetary redress for the intergenerational and continuing terror, trauma and economic discrimination inflicted on black Americans. The urgency of the protests across America shows that reforms won't last unless we pay for the crimes of the past.

Don't scapegoat protesters for coronavirus spread

As the police attack, bait and kettle protesters, many people have begun conjecturing about how the gatherings will impact the ongoing pandemic. And while I worry about the health of the protesters, and encourage them to get tested after they take to the streets, it's inherently ignorant and racist to blame protesters for the inevitable spike in the pandemic numbers.

What about the governors who, all too soon, and stuck between a rock and a hard place, have made the decision to enter phased reopenings, a decision that chose the economy over lives? This is not to oversimplify the situation, seeing as it's true that most people cannot live off of the meager Trump-signed stimulus checks and unemployment checks. But the choice to reopen states has returned much of the country to business as usual and opened up the chance for a second coro-

navirus wave. There have been similar resurgences in other countries and in some U.S. states after reopening.

Every day I see people gathering in neighborhoods, flocking to beaches (here's looking at you Ocean City, Md.) and generally breaking social distancing orders. And why shouldn't they? The crowd in Ocean City from photos looks overwhelmingly white, and there is little fear that the police will act violently against them. Those people are exercising their right to freedom, you might say. With that logic, the same argument can be extended to protesters, who are exercising the explicit right to protest systemic inequality rather than the right to ... get a haircut?

The pandemic worsens globally daily as people rush to normalcy. The World Health Organization desperately announces to an impatient world that just because you return to normal doesn't mean the pandemic does not rage on. Reuters reported on June 8 that COVID-19 had its biggest daily worldwide increase ever. The reason the pandemic even slowed and plateaued in some areas, to begin with, was because of the very measures that have been tossed to the side—the strict social distancing orders, the stay-at-home orders and the mask orders that have disappeared as restaurants, tattoo parlors and barbershops reopen and black people continue dying at the hands of police who are not caring for communities. And now we are starting to see the consequences.

Those who are protesting in efforts to propel the Black Lives Matter movement are risking their lives in more ways than one. They are risking their lives at the hands of the police who are battering and tear-gassing them, and they are also risking their lives by protesting during a pandemic. But what choice do they have? If the systemic oppression suddenly stopped when natural disasters occurred, then there would be no need for protests. The real truth is that disasters highlight the cracks in our society; the vulnerabilities and systemic issues that have always existed and harmed people.

Black people and those suffering from poverty are often the most impacted by disasters. Just look at Hurricane Ka-

By **ANJALI DASSARMA**

The Baltimore Sun

Anjali DasSarma (anjali.dassarma@gmail.com) is editor-in-chief of The Retriever, The University of Maryland Baltimore County's student newspaper.



trina, where many of the black and poor citizens who were criticized for disobeying evacuation orders had nowhere else to go. During the COVID-19 pandemic which is already disproportionately affecting black communities, the police are still targeting and killing black people. The protesters are not only fighting for Black Lives Matter, but they are also making the statement that systemic inequity and inequality is life-threatening in itself, so much so that it is necessary for people to protest and gather during a pandemic.

Despite the timing of the reopening of our own state of Maryland, and states all over the country, and how that might contribute to COVID-19 spread, people who align with the likes of President Donald Trump are scapegoating protesters. And by sharing that perspective, those who blame protesters are engaging in racist and ignorant rhetoric. Those are the same people who are more upset about a police car's destruction than George Floyd's public death at the hands of Minnesota police. They are more upset about peaceful protests than about the systemic racism that took the life of Breonna Taylor.

What President Trump has done by disregarding the WHO's guidance and diverting U.S. financial support, which totals 14.7% of the WHO's donations, away from supporting a health organization during a pandemic is what will cause the inevitable spike in COVID-19 cases and certainly the tragic demise of more innocent people.

COVID-19

From Page 8

that Van Kerkhove may have been trying to say something like this initially).

At the same time, a small yet growing body of research has documented spread by presymptomatic individuals. An April 15 study in the prestigious journal *Nature* estimated that "44% ... of secondary cases were infected during the index cases' presymptomatic stage." The researchers call for mitigation measures reflecting this.

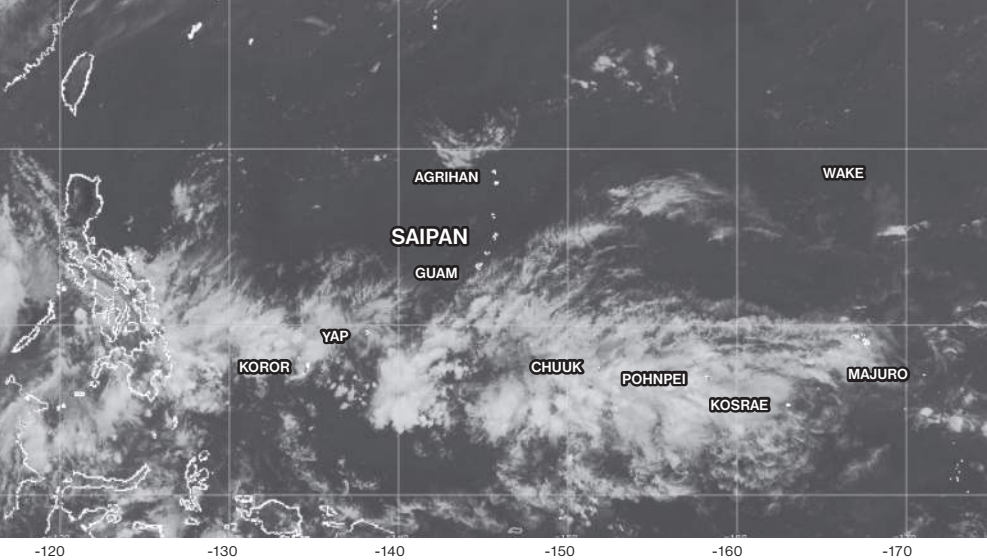
Testing and social distancing remain vital. The Twin Cities were the epicenter of the George Floyd protests. Thousands marched. Those who did have no way of knowing if people around them were contagious. State health officials recommend participants get tested for COVID-19, preferably five to seven days after exposure even if they don't feel sick.

Said Osterholm: "This is not a time to let down our guard."

(c)2020 *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis)

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
87°	79°	88°	78°	89°	79°	89°	79°	89°	79°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:44 AM, SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows partly cloudy skies and only a few showers this morning. Trade winds are blowing from the east-northeast at moderate levels. A leading edge of a trade-wind disturbance is located 200 miles southeast of the Marianas. An upper-level low is centered well to the north near 21N145E, with a trough that dips south to 12N. Buoy and altimetry data indicates combined seas are between 3 and 5 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

able, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

- ### Continue good hand hygiene

 - Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
 - Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

- ### Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

 - Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not avail-

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	86° / 76°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	86° / 76°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Tuesday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Wednesday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:26 AM	1:46 PM	-
Tuesday	2:01 AM	2:32 PM	-
Wednesday	2:37 A	3:19 PM	-
Thursday	3:15 AM	4:09 PM	-
Friday	3:55 AM	5:00 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	63° / 54°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	91° / 72°	
Hong Kong	Showers	88° / 81°	
Honolulu	Showers	87° / 75°	
London	Mostly Sunny	72° / 54°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	77° / 59°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	88° / 79°	
Melbourne	Showers	52° / 43°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	79° / 63°	
Osaka	Showers	75° / 63°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	73° / 57°	
Busan	Sunny	72° / 63°	
Rome	Showers	82° / 63°	
Salem	Thunderstorm	86° / 71°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	62° / 54°	
Seoul	Sunny	84° / 64°	
Tokyo	Showers	66° / 57°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	83° / 64°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:21 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.93	
10:15 AM	LOW TIDE	0.85	
3:51 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.47	
9:20 PM	LOW TIDE	0.91	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri				
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri				
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
GUAM TO ROTA				2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

NEWS DESK

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Business

Lights are on at Blackwood Furniture

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A relatively new furniture shop in Koblerville has managed to stay open even as dozens of businesses shuttered on Saipan during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dayoung Chung, Black Wood Furniture marketing manager, said their furniture store didn't close since the government enforced social distancing measures in late March to stymie the spread of the coronavirus on the island.

"We have not closed our store...but we had limited our business time," she said.

That meant reducing their store hours from 9am to 1pm starting last March 24. They have since resumed normal operating hours last May 28.

"Since we limited our business hours, our customers had trouble accessing our store as well. So, we decided to interact more with our customers via Facebook and Instagram," she said.

Shuttering their store half the day but increasing their digital footprint proved to be a genius move for Black Wood Furniture.

"The messages from customers highly increased. We even tried to assist our customers during late nights or early mornings to satisfy their needs through Facebook and Instagram. Thankfully it led them to visit our store between 9am and 1pm," Chung said.

There was also another unexpected benefit, according to her. "...[With] the situation of online classes, working at home made the demands for desks and chairs high. We tried



Black Wood Furniture is located along Chalan Msgr. Martinez, St. in Koblerville.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

to import desks and chairs for home furnishing even with difficulties in getting supplies from Korea," she said.

With the easing of social distancing measures, Black Wood Furniture has seen its operations return to pre-pandemic levels. "Our sales are back to normal, 10-20 teams visit our store a day."

That doesn't mean that Chung and company have eased measures to protect customers and staff though.

"We are compliant with 6-foot social distancing to reduce the risk of staffs/customers' exposure to the virus. Staff and customers are strictly asked to wear masks before entering our shop...and also we have provided masks, gloves, and personal hygiene products to our staff," she said.



Black Wood Furniture has seen its operations return to pre-pandemic levels.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chung thanked Black Wood Furniture's loyal customers that continue to patronage them even during these difficult times.

"Thanks for shopping at

Black Wood Furniture! We truly appreciate your business, and we're so grateful for the

France has millions of unsold face masks after virus crisis

PARIS (AP)—The French praised the altruism of their prized textile and luxury goods companies when production facilities got diverted from churning out the latest fashions to making cloth masks designed to protect the general public from the coronavirus.

Now, the companies that helped France avoid a feared shortage of virus-filtering face wear for everyday use say they need help unloading a surplus of 20 million masks. They asked the French government for assistance promoting and finding buyers for the unsold output of the industry's national effort.

Hundreds of textile and clothing manufacturers answered the government's call for millions of masks superior to homemade versions. President Emmanuel Macron last month sported a military-tested model embroidered with the tri-color national flag to advertise the "Made in



Black Wood Furniture didn't close even if the government enforced social distancing measures starting late March.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Black Wood Furniture is compliant with 6-foot social distancing to reduce the risk of staffs/customers' exposure to the virus.

trust you've placed in us. Without our customers, we could not have overcome this hardship. Our priority is customer's satisfaction. We sincerely hope you are satisfied with your purchase and look forward to serving you again," she said.

Black Wood Furniture is

located along Chalan Msgr. Martinez, St. in Koblerville. It is open from 11am to 6pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday (closed Wednesday and Sunday). For more information, call 234-6708 or reach them through Facebook and Instagram.

Beijing closes market, locks down area in new virus outbreak

BEIJING (AP)—The largest wholesale food market in Beijing was shuttered behind police guard and the surrounding neighborhood locked down Saturday after more than 50 people tested positive for the coronavirus in the Chinese capital.

The outbreak—coming more than 50 days after the last local case in the city of 20 million people—showed how the virus can still come back as restrictions are eased. The city's swift response reflected China's emphasis on moving quickly to stem the spread of new cases wherever they appear, a lesson learned from fighting the outbreak earlier.

"The epidemic was already almost over, and then suddenly there's one or two more new hot spots," said Jin Zheng, a woman in her 20s walking in

central Beijing. "I'm a little scared. I hope everyone avoids going outside too much and wears protective gear."

Authorities locked down 11 residential communities near the Xinfadi market, about 3 kilometers (2 miles) southeast of the Temple of Heaven tourist site. Police officers could be seen maneuvering white fencing into place to seal off a road leading to a cluster of apartment buildings.

Communist Party members and volunteers were being mobilized to shop for food and other daily necessities for the affected residents, the Beijing News newspaper said in a social media post. It wasn't immediately clear how many people live in the 11 communities.

Outside the market, paramilitary police in green uni-

forms put up vehicle barricades and stood in position at the entrances. Some people were allowed in after showing documents at checkpoints. A red banner reading "We cannot lower our guard when it comes to epidemic prevention and control" hung on a fence.

Beijing officials said 45 workers at the market tested positive for the coronavirus, though they showed no symptoms. That was in addition to seven earlier cases of people with symptoms, including six who had visited or worked at the market. China does not include asymptomatic cases in its official case count.

Inspectors took 1,901 samples from meat, surfaces, dustbins, handles and other objects at the market, and 40 tested positive, the officials said.

of trendy underwear brand Le Slip Francais (The French Brief), sees the slump as a marketing and distribution problem. The washable, specially engineered masks produced by his company and others saw "a very strong and immediate demand" before the excess accessories piled up in warehouses and factories.

"Not everyone necessarily knew about what was available around them, and the public didn't necessarily know where or what to buy," he told French public radio service RFI.

Some textile companies complained that the French government was slow to validate their masks as effective in filtering out small particles, which slowed their ability to get to market before people were allowed to start emerging from their homes and needed masks in stores or on public transportation.

France" masks.

Yet within weeks, demand dried up for the domestically produced masks that sold for a few euros at supermarkets and pharmacies or were available in bulk for free distribution by businesses and local governments. Manufacturers and the government acknowledged that many suppliers and consumers still opted for cheaper disposable face masks from Asia.

"We are faced with a lot of competition" from countries with lower labor costs, said Thomas Delise, owner of Chanteclair, the knitwear manufacturer behind the mask Macron flashed during a school visit last month.

In an interview with The Associated Press at his factory southeast of Paris, he called for trade barriers to large imports, and coordination within Europe to buy Europe-made masks.

Guillaume Gibault, founder

Nation

Atlanta police chief resigns after fatal police shooting

ATLANTA (AP)—Atlanta's police chief resigned Saturday hours after a black man was fatally shot by an officer in a struggle following a field sobriety test. Authorities said the slain man had grabbed an officer's Taser, but was running away when he was shot.

Police Chief Erika Shields stepped down as the killing of 27-year-old Rayshard Brooks sparked a new wave of protests in Atlanta after turbulent demonstrations that followed the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis had simmered down.

Protesters on Saturday night set fire to the Wendy's restaurant where Brooks was fatally shot the night before and blocked traffic on a nearby highway.

Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms announced the police chief's resignation at a Saturday afternoon news conference. The mayor also called for the immediate firing of the unidentified officer who opened fire at Brooks.

"I do not believe that this was a justified use of deadly force and have called for the immediate termination of the officer," Bottoms said.

She said it was Shields' own decision to step aside as police chief and that she would remain with the city in an undetermined role. Interim Corrections Chief Rodney Bryant



"RIP Rayshard" is spray painted on a sign as flames engulf a Wendy's restaurant during protests Saturday, June 13, 2020, in Atlanta.

would serve as interim police chief until a permanent replacement is found.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation, which is investigating the shooting, said the deadly confrontation started with officers responding to a complaint that a man was

sleeping in a car blocking the restaurant's drive-thru lane. The GBI said Brooks failed a field sobriety test and then resisted officers' attempts to arrest him.

The GBI released security camera video of the shooting Saturday. The footage shows

a man running from two white police officers as he raises a hand, which is holding some type of object, toward an officer a few steps behind him. The officer draws his gun and fires as the man keeps running, then falls to the ground in the parking lot.

GBI Director Vic Reynolds

said Brooks had grabbed a Taser from one of the officers and appeared to point it at the officer as he fled, prompting the officer to reach for his gun and fire an estimated three shots.

The security camera video recorded Brooks "running or fleeing from Atlanta police

officers," Reynolds said. "It appears that he has in his hand a Taser."

The footage does not show Brooks' initial struggle with police.

L. Chris Stewart, an attorney for Brooks' family, said the officer who shot him should be charged for "an unjustified use of deadly force, which equals murder."

"You can't have it both ways in law enforcement," Stewart said. "You can't say a Taser is a nonlethal weapon ... but when an African American grabs it and runs with it, now it's some kind of deadly, lethal weapon that calls for you to unload on somebody."

He said Brooks was a father of four and had celebrated a daughter's eighth birthday Friday before he was killed.

The shooting came at a time of heightened tension over police brutality and calls for reforms across the U.S. following the May 25 death of Floyd in Minneapolis. Atlanta was among U.S. cities where large crowds of protesters took to the streets.

Demonstrators, including members of Brooks' family, gathered Saturday outside the restaurant where he was shot.

Among those protesting was Crystal Brooks, who said she is Rayshard Brooks' sister-in-law.

Body camera video could offer more detail in Floyd encounter

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Video recorded by a bystander showed the world George Floyd's horrifying last minutes, capturing his cries and pleas for air as a Minneapolis officer used his knee to pin down Floyd's neck.

But the footage recorded by body cameras that officers wore on their chests as they were arresting Floyd is expected to show even more about what the officers and Floyd were doing and saying during that fateful encounter, and it could shape how the officers' cases play out in court.

"A video camera, when properly authenticated, is an eye witness. It can testify," said Michael Primeau, an audio and video forensics expert at Michigan-based Primeau Forensics.

Floyd, a black man who was handcuffed, died May 25 after Derek Chauvin, a white officer, used his knee to pin Floyd to the ground. Chauvin, who kept his knee on Floyd's neck even after Floyd stopped moving, has been charged with second-degree murder, third-degree murder and manslaughter.

The three other officers,

Thomas Lane, J. Kueng and Tou Thao, have been charged with aiding and abetting both second-degree murder and manslaughter. All four officers were fired.

The widely seen video recorded by a bystander shows Chauvin's actions and Floyd's anguish as he gasps for air. It also shows Thao, who was facing the bystanders. Some surveillance videos that have been released show bits and pieces of what happened before Floyd ended up on the ground, but a complete video picture of what happened from start to finish hasn't emerged. Body camera videos are not expected to be made public until a trial or until the cases are otherwise resolved.

Police spokesman John Elder said he was told that all four officers had their body cameras on, which is department policy. Minneapolis police officers are required to activate their body cameras well before they arrive to a scene under rules put in place after the 2017 fatal shooting of Justine Ruszczyk Damond, an Australian native who called 911 to report hearing a possible sexual assault behind her

home. The two officers who responded to her call didn't activate their body cameras until after one of them shot her.

In the Floyd case, Bruce Gordon, a spokesman for the state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, confirmed that body camera video captured portions of the incident. He said there is no squad car video that shows what happened.

John Stiles, a spokesman for Attorney General Keith Ellison, the lead prosecutor in the case, said prosecutors are reviewing all available evidence. He said he couldn't comment further.

Mel Reeves, a longtime community activist in Minneapolis, said he doesn't think the body camera video will matter because the bystander video should be enough to convict the officers.

"We saw what we saw," Reeves said. "We don't need any more evidence. We saw a man murdered. ... If the system that we live under—if this so-called democracy—can't find a way to punish people that caused a human being's death, we will have to pack up our bags and try something else."

Bodies of 2 kids identified as Idaho community mourns

BOISE, Idaho (AP)—The bodies found this week at a rural property in Idaho are those of two children missing since last year, authorities confirmed Saturday.

The Rexburg Police Department issued the press release confirming that remains found on Tuesday have been positively identified by the medical examiner's office as belonging to Joshua "JJ" Vallow, who was 7 when he vanished in September, and his 17-year-old sister Tylee Ryan.

"It is not the outcome we had hoped; to be able to find the children safe," the Rexburg police statement said.

Police discovered the two sets of human remains after issuing a warrant at the home of Chad Daybell, who married the children's mother, Lori Vallow Daybell, a few weeks after the kids were last seen. Relatives confirmed to the media the next day that it was the children.

For police, the grisly discovery this week marked a significant break in a monthslong investigation into what happened to the two children.

For relatives, their heart-

break was magnified.

For cluster of small Idaho towns, it was the denouement of one mystery and the start of another: Where are JJ and Tylee? Right here, and yet irretrievably gone. Why are they gone? That may never be fully answered.

"I never thought it would come to this—I didn't think they were dead," said Timanee Olsen, a specialty cookie baker who has closely followed the case and after hearing about the bodies, planned a vigil to mourn the kids who disappeared from Rexburg. "It's just sparked a lot of sadness in our town."

The children's mother, Lori Vallow Daybell, has been in jail since February on felony child abandonment and other charges. Her new husband, Chad Daybell, was charged with concealing or destroying the bodies after police searched his rural property Tuesday. The remains have yet to be formally identified, but family members told news outlets that they belong to JJ and Tylee.

"We are filled with unfathomable sadness that these two

bright stars were stolen from us, and only hope that they died without pain or suffering," the families wrote in the statement.

Kay and Larry Woodcock, JJ's grandparents, worked for months to keep the search for kids in the limelight. With this week's discovery, they have withdrawn to grieve.

"The family is not doing any interviews right now," said Felicia Dewall, who is acting as their spokeswoman. "They're asking everybody to kind of respect that."

The complex case transfixed the public with its ties to the mysterious deaths of the Daybells' former spouses and the couple's doomsday beliefs.

It began with Lori Daybell's brother shooting and killing her estranged husband, Charles Vallow, in suburban Phoenix last summer in what he said was self-defense. Vallow was seeking a divorce, saying Lori believed she had become a god-like figure who was responsible for ushering in the biblical end times. Her brother, Alex Cox, died in December of an apparent blood clot in his lung.

Asia

WITH SINGLE-DAY HIGH

India passes 300,000 cases

NEW DELHI (AP)—India reported more than 11,000 new coronavirus infections on Saturday, another single-day high for the country, as it passed the grim milestone of 300,000 cases.

The Health Ministry reported 11,458 new cases, driving the toll to 308,993, the fourth-highest in the world. It also reported 386 deaths, raising the number of fatalities to 8,884.

India's caseload has jumped by about 100,000 in a week, coinciding with the reopening of shopping malls, houses of worship and restaurants. The government had imposed a nationwide lockdown in late March.

In New Delhi, the capital, most public hospitals are full, and crematoriums and graveyards are struggling to manage a rash of deaths.

New Delhi's government has projected that cases in the capital area alone could expand to more than half a million by late July, and is considering taking over luxury hotels and stadiums to convert into field hospitals.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

BEIJING LOCKS DOWN COMMUNITIES: The Chinese capital has locked down 11 residential communities near a wholesale food market to

try to stem a new outbreak of COVID-19. Beijing officials said Saturday that 45 workers at the Xinfadi market tested positive for the coronavirus, though they showed no symptoms. That was in addition to seven earlier cases of people with symptoms, including six who had visited or worked at the market. Forty environmental samples taken at the market also tested positive, city officials said. The Beijing News newspaper said in a social media post that Communist Party members and volunteers were being organized to shop for food and other daily necessities for the affected residents. The city, which had not had a locally transmitted infection in more than 50 days, reversed some recent moves to relax coronavirus restrictions.

SOUTH KOREA REPORTS 49 NEW CASES: South Korea reported 49 new cases of the coronavirus on Saturday, most of them in the densely populated Seoul metropolitan area, where health authorities have been struggling to slow transmissions linked to entertainment and leisure activities, church gatherings and low-income workers who couldn't afford to stay home. The country has confirmed a total of 12,051

cases and 277 deaths. Authorities said 44 of the new cases were reported from the greater capital area, which is home to half of the country's 51 million people. The head of the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has pleaded with residents to stay home over the weekend, saying there was "high concern" that increased public activity would lead to a massive circulation of the virus.

HONG KONG'S OCEAN PARK REOPENS: Hong Kong's Ocean Park reopened after more than four months amid virus fears. Measures to guard against COVID-19 include limiting the amusement park's capacity to 9,000 guests per day for the first two weeks. The park requests all guests to wear a mask and undergo temperature checks before entering. Hand sanitizers are also being distributed. The animal and nature-themed attraction combines pandas, penguins, roller coasters and other rides, and has been a Hong Kong icon since 1977. Even before the pandemic, Ocean Park was on the slide, begging the government for more money to survive. At the end of May, lawmakers agreed to give it 5.4 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$7 million) to stay afloat for a year.

S Korea urges North to uphold deals amid rising animosities

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea on Sunday convened an emergency security meeting and urged North Korea to uphold reconciliation agreements, hours after the North threatened to demolish a liaison office and take military action against its rival.

North Korea has recently abruptly resumed a fiery rhetoric against its southern neighbor, accusing it of failing to prevent activists from launching propaganda leaflets across their border. Some experts say North Korea is expressing its deep frustration over Seoul's failure to revive lucrative joint economic projects and over a lack of progress in nuclear diplomacy with Washington.

South Korea's national security director, Chung Eui-yong, held an emergency video conference with ministers in charge of security and military generals on Sunday morning to discuss the latest situation on the Korean Peninsula and the government's possible steps, the presidential Blue

House said in a statement. The Unification Ministry, which handles relations with North Korea, later issued a statement saying that both Koreas must strive to abide by all agreements they have reached. It said the South Korean government "views the current situation as grave."

On Saturday night, Kim Yo Jong, the influential sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, warned that Seoul will soon witness "a tragic scene of the useless North-South liaison office (in North Korea) being completely collapsed." She also said she would leave to North Korea's military the right to take the next step of retaliation against South Korea.

North Korea earlier suspended communication lines with South Korea and threatened to nullify 2018 agreements that led the Koreas to halt firing exercises, remove some land mines and tear down guard posts in front-line areas.

Some observers say the end of the 2018 deals could allow North Korea to send

ships across the disputed sea boundary, float down mines on a border river or take other provocative steps at the border area. But it's still unclear if the North would go ahead with its threat to destroy the liaison office, which was built at a North Korean border town following a 2018 summit between Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in.

Such a move could deepen anti-Pyongyang sentiments make it difficult for the North to restore ties with South Korea when needed.

North Korea may be deliberately building up tensions to bolster its internal unity and pressure the United States to do something to resume the nuclear talks that have largely been stalled for more than a year, some experts say.

They say North Korea desperately needs sanctions relief as its economy had likely worsened in the face of harsh U.S.-led sanctions and the coronavirus pandemic that forced it to close its border with China, its biggest trading partner.

World

World joins US protests

BERLIN (AP)—People have taken to the streets of Berlin, London, Paris and other cities around the world to demonstrate in support of Black Lives Matter protesters in the United States and to vent anger over President Donald Trump's response to the police killing of George Floyd in Minnesota.

But at the top, the leaders of traditional allies of the United States have taken pains to avoid criticizing Trump directly, walking a fine line to reconcile international diplomacy with domestic outrage.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau let silence speak for itself when asked to comment on the decision to forcibly clear peaceful protesters outside the White House to make way for a Trump photo-op at a nearby church, standing pensively at his lectern apparently mulling his answer for more than 20 seconds before answering that Canada also suffered from "systemic discrimination"—never mentioning the American president.

"We need to be allies in the fight against discrimination, we need to listen, we need to learn, and we need to work hard to fix, to figure out how we can be part of the solution on fixing things," he said.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel sidestepped questions from ZDF public



AP

In this Dec. 4, 2019, file photo, from front row left, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, U.S. President Donald Trump, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez attend a ceremony event during a NATO leaders meeting at The Grove hotel and resort in Watford, Hertfordshire, England.

television about Trump last week, saying the killing of Floyd was "really, really terrible. Racism is something terrible, and society in the United States is very polarized."

When pressed, she conceded that Trump's "political style is a very controversial one" but would go no further when asked if she had confidence in him.

A combination of factors are at work, including diplomatic courtesy but also pragmatism based on the possibility that Trump will be reelected to another four years in November, said Sudha David-Wilp, deputy director of the Berlin office of the German Marshall Fund think tank.

"It wouldn't be proper for his peers to criticize, especially when it's very obvious that they are concerned that the United States is going through an incredibly

difficult time—you have the triple whammy of an economic depression, health crisis and now, of course, social unrest due to questions of racism," she said.

But she said it's difficult for leaders like Trudeau and Merkel, who "are seen as defenders of liberal democracy, and President Trump has trampled on many of the values that undergird liberal democracy, such as the protection of minorities, such as the freedom of assembly, such as the freedom of the press."

» But leaders restrained about Trump

Spike in deaths in Darfur points to virus' invisible spread

CAIRO (AP)—In the sprawling refugee camps of Darfur, the war-scarred western region of Sudan, officials say the elderly are falling sick and dying at astonishing rates.

In North Darfur's provincial capital of El Fasher, some say they scroll through a dozen death announcements each day: Another old friend, relative, community leader lost with dizzying speed.

Doctors in the region's few functioning hospitals report an influx of patients with symptoms like a lost sense of taste, breathing troubles and fevers. The official causes of their untimely deaths remain "unknown."

Humanitarian workers and medical personnel believe the coronavirus is spreading unchecked and untracked through Sudan's most marginalized territory, where medical facilities are few and far between and where years of conflict have left some 1.6

million people crammed into refugee camps.

Nationwide, Sudan has reported 6,879 coronavirus infections and 433 deaths, according to the Health Ministry. Of those, 193 cases and 54 fatalities have been confirmed across Darfur—a figure experts believe is a vast undercount.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, public health officials have sounded the alarm that the coronavirus will take a disastrous toll on the world's most vulnerable regions, particularly refugee camps, where social distancing, even handwashing, prove impossible.

"People in the camps are suffocating, they can't breathe," said Mohamed Hassan Adam, director of Abushouk displacement camp in North Darfur. Just a corner of the camp saw 64 unexplained deaths in one month, he said. His four neighbors, all in their sixties, grew feeble and vanished one by one.

"They get exhausted then

they die. There is no way to tell what happened," he said.

Authorities are scrambling to curb the spread of contagion amid a fragile democratic transition after massive protests last year toppled longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir.

"We are in the eye of the storm," said Ashraf Issa, spokesman for the U.N.-African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur, referring to the country's exponential surge in infections.

Sudan's health care system is in disarray after years of war and sanctions. Dire shortages of protective equipment and staff nationwide prompted strikes by medical workers as infections rise in their ranks. A drastic undersupply of drugs and hard currency forces the sick to purchase essential medicine out of pocket. A lack of fuel has made it increasingly difficult for doctors and patients to reach hospitals.

Health & Wellness

This advertorial
is sponsored by



Tan Siu Lin
Foundation

Scoot over, stop talking
and keep walking:

Sidewalk etiquette for social distancing

Sidewalk etiquette is
especially important
now; make sure
you're following it.

DREAMSTIME/TNS

By RACHEL HUTTON
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Abigail Johnson has spent most of her adulthood car-free, living in New York for nearly a decade and then in Uptown Minneapolis for the past two years.

As chair of the city's Pedestrian Advisory Committee, she has been encouraged by how many other walkers she's been encountering during the pandemic.

"I'm hoping it leads to people realizing that walking is just such a wonderful way to do a lot of daily activities," Johnson said. "People are slowly realizing how good walking is for your mental and physical health. You're combining all these wonderful aspects of being with your community, in your community. You're getting exercise, you're running errands, and you're smiling at people face-to-face."

Bill Lindeke, an urban geographer in St. Paul who pens the Twin City Sidewalks blog, concurs. He calls the

walking trend "a silver lining" to the crisis, and ticks off a list of positives: It's healthy, it's fun and you observe things that you normally wouldn't see if you're driving.

But one of the things Lindeke has observed, as have so many others out on foot, is how ill-equipped our sidewalks are to handle increased pedestrian traffic—especially for those trying to social-distance.

"Our streets and sidewalks aren't really ideally designed for a lot of walking," he said. "A lot of cities that are designed for walking have much wider sidewalks than we do in the United States."

Most residential sidewalks in the Twin Cities are about 5 feet wide—too narrow to maintain a 6-foot buffer when parties pass one another. A once-simple stroll can now feel like a real-life version of the video game Frogger, dodging other walkers and joggers.

Although professor Ingrid Schneider studies recreational trail users' behaviors and attitudes, some of her research might help us better understand these encounters, which she's heard

described as "sidewalk chicken."

Through her work for the University of Minnesota's Department of Forest Resources, she has been seeing density and spacing issues on trails long before the arrival of coronavirus. Her decade-old survey of Minnesota trail hikers found that nearly half of respondents had experienced conflict from other recreationalists passing too closely or not yielding.

Now that the threat of coronavirus has made "a seemingly simple navigation so much more complex," she recommends that walkers use kindness and common sense and watch the "sidewalk rage."

The pedestrian equivalent of road rage, which has been documented by University of Hawaii researchers, is backed up by Schneider's survey of trail users, which found that roughly 20% of respondents said they reacted to an interference by expressing anger to the person who caused the incident.

Following a few simple guidelines for sidewalk etiquette should help improve the experience on city sidewalks or parkland trails.

Before you go

Plan your route: Lindeke encourages pedestrians to select less-traveled routes when possible, avoiding the city lakes and rivers, as well as other popular areas with natural amenities. Better to walk in residential neighborhoods around where you live, or to explore other less-busy areas farther afield.

Be aware: Pay attention to people you're going to encounter half a block ahead and those coming up behind you. Be especially mindful if you're on your phone or have earbuds in. This isn't really the time for deep thinking or daydreaming during walks. "Try not to get too self-absorbed," Lindeke said.

Encountering others

Give a sign of acknowledgment: A quick hello, head nod or smile (for the unmasked) is a good way to start. "I think it gets people out of their shells when you have to talk to a stranger," Johnson said. "I think you wake up a little inside and it softens the edges."

Scoot over: There's no need to invent a new set of hand signals to indicate your intentions, Johnson said. Just move over as soon as you see someone approaching. She often crosses to the other side of the street as soon as she notices another party coming her way, "just to let them know, like, 'Walk in peace, I'm already far away.'"

Make room if you can: "Able-bodied folks like myself who are in relatively good health and spry enough to go jogging have a responsibility to make sure that we're not inconveniencing people with more mobility challenges," Lindeke said.

Forget the hierarchy: Should a parent pushing a stroller move over for a kid learning to bike? Does a dog walker defer to someone carrying a parcel? Don't bother engaging in a complex calculus of whose needs trump whose, "Just get out of the way," Johnson said. "It doesn't matter who it is coming at you, who physically able they are, who they are, what they're doing," she said. "Do it for everybody."

Dodge adventurously: Johnson suggests seeing your walk as an

adventure and turning front lawns, boulevards and streets into your personal parkour course. "If you're physically able, hop in the grass, jump off the curb, do a somersault up the steep hill on the side of your apartment building—just get out of the way," she said.

Queue up and hush up: If you're in a group, get into single file as you pass others. "One of you falls back behind the other until you pass," explained Juliet Mitchell, a St. Paul etiquette trainer.

Extend the courtesy even further and stop talking as you pass. While a brief foray through someone else's airspace constitutes a low risk for virus transmission, closing your mouth can be a sign of respect. "You are giving the indication: I can't control everything, but I care enough about you to be inconvenienced for a few seconds," she said.

Joggers should hit the streets: Heavy breathing by runners can disperse aerosols further, increasing the chance of spreading infection and making those around them anxious. Mask-less runners, especially, should consider eschewing the sidewalks for low-traffic streets, Johnson advised.

When conflicts arise

Don't scold: If a cyclist is riding cautiously through a nearly empty pedestrian parkway, there's really no need to scold them, Johnson said. Neighbors congregating on the sidewalk to chat may not realize they're blocking the walking lane _ cut them some slack.

Say "Excuse me": If you have limited mobility and someone's in your way, politely ask for space. Mitchell suggests saying, "Excuse me, I'm social-distancing,?" in a lighthearted tone.

Keep walking: If another person makes a rude comment about your sidewalk etiquette or social-distancing practices, Mitchell advises ignoring the remarks. "Keep a-steppin'," she said. "Don't give them the satisfaction of knowing they riled you up. Don't give them your energy. Life's too short. You don't have to always respond. Just notice it for what it is and keep moving."

Is it safe to go to the pool or beach during the coronavirus outbreak?

By CATHERINE MARFIN
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

With the summer heat already hitting, many people are looking forward to cooling off at the pool or the beach.

Here's what the experts say you need to know to enjoy yourself safely as COVID-19 cases continue to rise.

Chlorine does make pools safer

There's no evidence the coronavirus can spread through the water, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. And chlorine and other chemicals that are used to clean pools render the virus inactive.

"If I took ... [a child] swimming, I would let them go swimming and en-

joy it," said Dr. Robert Haley, director of the division of epidemiology in the internal medicine department at UT Southwestern. "And if it's chlorinated, that's probably enough to make it reasonably safe. Nothing is perfectly safe, but probably safe enough that I wouldn't be worried about it."

The outdoors is generally safer than the indoors because of better air flow and the relative ease of social distancing. But the same good practices—including wearing a mask when you're not in the water and covering coughs and sneezes—should continue.

"It's not necessarily transmission through the water [that is risky], but just the environment and that setting and the practicalities of keeping the

physical distancing," said Dr. Philip Huang, director of Dallas County Health and Human Services.

He added that swimming is not a recommended activity based on the current COVID-19 risk level and the county's color-coded chart of safety recommendations.

In guidelines published last month, the CDC offered advice for safely opening public pools, including regularly cleaning frequently touched surfaces such as chairs, tables handrails and toys, discouraging people from sharing goggles and other equipment, and spreading out seating.

Beaches, lakes and rivers dilute the virus

Some health experts are wary

about swimming in untreated water because viruses, bacteria and parasites can survive in it and infect people.

However, other viruses in the coronavirus family are not stable in water, Angela Rasmussen, a virologist at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, told The New York Times.

The CDC has reported the virus has been found in untreated wastewater, which has led to worries about beaches and lakes. Although there's some cause for concern, many health experts say water recreation at those places should be relatively safe.

It's not known if people can get sick if they're exposed to the virus in untreated water, and even if they

can, the virus should be diluted enough in large bodies of water to lower the risk of infection.

"You'd have to probably drink the entire lake to get an infectious dose of the coronavirus," Paula Cannon, a professor of molecular microbiology and immunology at USC's Keck School of Medicine, told the Los Angeles Times.

Some research does show the coronavirus can remain infectious temporarily in natural freshwater, but scientists don't know that people can get sick from exposure to the virus in water, the Los Angeles Times reported.

But whatever the location, physical distance, hygiene and masks still matter.

Life & Style

Oscars to set best picture noms at 10, inclusion standards

By LINDSEY BAHR—The Oscars are implementing some big changes, including a set number of best picture nominees and to-be-determined representation and inclusion standards for eligibility.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced Friday that there will be 10 best picture nominees

beginning with the 94th Academy Awards in 2022. The organization is also planning to implement new eligibility requirements with an eye toward diversity in collaboration with the Producers Guild of America that will be finalized by the end of July.

Neither change will impact the 93rd Academy Awards set to

be held in Los Angeles on Feb. 28, 2021, because it is already deep into the eligibility calendar.

The film academy has shifted the number of best picture nominees several times in its history. In 2009, it was expanded from five to 10, which many thought at the time was in response to the lack of a nomination for Christopher Nolan's

"The Dark Knight." In 2011, the field was allowed to fluctuate from five to 10, which led to some years having more than others. Last year there were nine. In the Academy's early

years, anywhere from eight to 12 films could be nominated for best picture.

The organization that puts on the Oscars is also committing to a new phase of diver-

sity and inclusion initiatives, which it calls Academy Aperture 2025. The first phase, which ended this year, was in response to the #OscarsSoWhite criticisms.

ABC names Matt James as its first black 'Bachelor'

NEW YORK (AP)—ABC has named Matt James, its first black "Bachelor" to lead the network's long-running dating

competition show, a move long sought by critics of the series' lack of diversity among its leading men.

The casting was announced Friday on "Good Morning America."

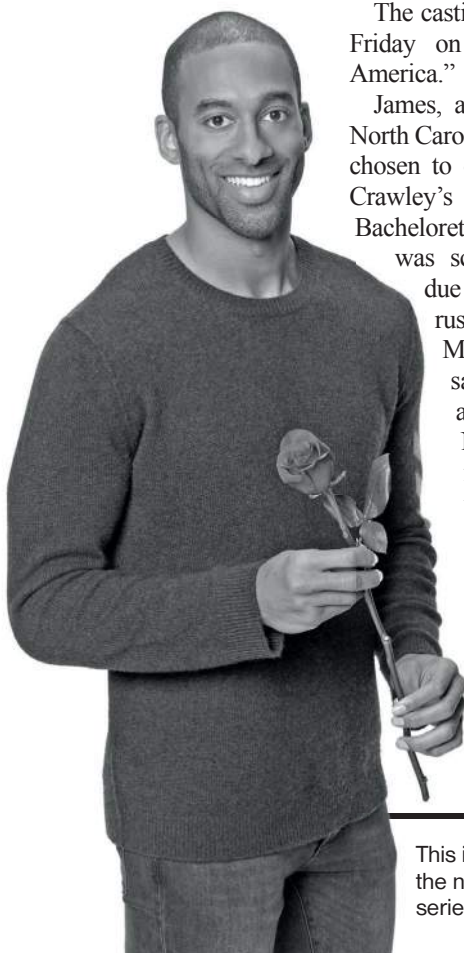
James, a 28-year-old from North Carolina, was originally chosen to compete for Clare Crawley's affection on "The Bachelorette," but filming was scrapped in March due to the coronavirus pandemic. "Good Morning America" says James founded an organization in New York City that finds creative ways to engage children from underserved areas.

The show has been under pressure for years to be more diverse and cast a black "Bachelor." A lawsuit filed

in 2012 claimed the show was blocking contestants of color from starring roles. The case was dismissed on First Amendment grounds.

Until now, Rachel Lindsay was the only African American to be cast as a lead in the franchise's 18-year history when she was named "The Bachelorette" in 2017. Lindsay has criticized the show publicly for not doing enough to increase diversity both in front of and behind the camera.

"This is something that 'Bachelor' fans have wanted and asked for a very long time," said Charli Penn, relationships and wellness director at Essence. "It wasn't a new request. It's a long overdue request. That franchise has not represented the diversity of its fanbase. One of the things I think people find surprising is they say 'Oh, black people don't watch 'The Bachelor.' But yes, we do."



This image released by ABC shows Matt James, who will be the next bachelor on the 25th season of the romance reality series "The Bachelor." AP

Sun says JK Rowling article did not glorify domestic abuse

LONDON (AP)—The Sun newspaper said Friday it did not intend to "glorify" domestic violence by giving a platform to Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling's ex-husband just days after she revealed she had been a victim of domestic abuse.

Following a story headlined "I slapped JK and I'm not sorry," the newspaper took the unusual step of respond-

ing to criticism by insisting its sympathies were on the side of abuse victims. It also said it had a long history of campaigning against domestic violence.

"We were disgusted by the comments of J.K. Rowling's ex-husband and branded him 'sick' and 'unrepentant' in our coverage," the newspaper said. "It was certainly not our intention to 'enable' or 'glori-

fy' domestic abuse, our intention was to expose a perpetrator's total lack of remorse."

The newspaper reported that Rowling's first husband, Jorge Arantes, said he didn't care about her admission this week that she had been a survivor of domestic abuse.

"Yes. It is true I slapped her," he is quoted as saying. "But I didn't abuse her."

Fox News removes altered photos of Seattle protest zone

SEATTLE (AP)—Fox News has removed digitally altered photos from its website after the Seattle Times on Friday noted misleading images used in the network's coverage about a Seattle neighborhood that's become a protest center against police brutality and racial injustice.

As of Saturday, Fox News

included an editors note posted at the top of at least three stories on its website covering the protest zone, saying it replaced a "home page photo collage" because it "did not clearly delineate between these images" and that it mistakenly included a St. Paul, Minnesota, photo in a slideshow about Seattle.

The Seattle Times reports Fox News' website featured at least two photos on Friday that inserted an image of a man standing with a military-style rifle, and that there were no disclaimers on how they were manipulated when featured on the network's website for most of the day Friday.

Warner Bros. sets late July theatrical release for 'Tenet'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The closely watched arrival of Christopher Nolan's big-budget sci-fi espionage film "Tenet" will finally happen on July 31, Warner Bros. announced Friday.

The studio said it would delay the release by two weeks and instead re-issue Nolan's 2010 sci-fi blockbuster "In-

ception" in mid-July.

The release date for "Tenet" has been closely watched in all corners of the film industry, which has faced shuttered theaters due to the coronavirus since mid-March. Movie theaters plan to reopen in July for a vastly different summer season than the one the industry had planned.

The Marvel film "Black Widow" and the ninth installment in the "Fast & Furious" franchise, both expected to arrive in the early summer, have delayed their releases.

Warner Bros. also announced Friday that "Wonder Woman 1984," a sequel to its 2017 hit, would shift from an August release to Oct. 2.

Mom's 'friends' abandon her after third child is born

DEAR ABBY: I recently welcomed my third child, a baby boy who was wanted and planned. We are overjoyed. Our two daughters are just under 10 years old. Over the years, my social circle has consisted mostly of the parents of my daughters' friends.

Abby, my news was met with mixed reactions. Some were thrilled for my pregnancy, while others were shocked. One woman even told me, "I'm just not in that phase of life anymore."

After my son was born, I didn't get visits or even a phone call from some of them. I announced his birth on social media and mailed out a beautiful announcement, but he hasn't been acknowledged nor have I been checked on.

I know he won't really be affected by this and I'm trying to focus on the positives. We have a big family on both sides, and many people within our community have warmly welcomed him. But I have been a good friend to these women, supported them in their times of need and even reached out during this pandemic to check on them in an effort to reconnect. I'm so disappointed. What am I supposed to say to these "friends" when I run into them again?

NEW MOM AGAIN

DEAR MOM: When you encounter them, be cordial. Make polite conversation and ask how they and their families are doing. If they inquire, tell them you and your family are well. Then move on, recognizing you are dealing with individuals who are solely centered upon themselves. Do

not attempt to revive a relationship with anyone who cares so little about you that they would treat you as they have, but DO recognize how fortunate you are that you know not to invest more of your time or yourself in them.

DEAR ABBY: I divorced my abusive ex-husband and am happily remarried. I have a son and daughter from my first marriage. They saw a lot of physical and emotional abuse when they were young. I stayed in the marriage to keep the family together until I realized my children were being hurt in the process. My son witnessed more of the abuse than my daughter.

My son has constantly brought up the past and has never been able to make a decent living. He's married with three children, and they have lived with his mother-in-law for years. I have apologized many times for what happened in the past and asked for forgiveness. I don't know what else I can do.

I always send birthday and holiday money telling them that I love them, but for some reason they have stopped answering my calls or responding to my texts. I call them three or four times a year. They used to call me when they needed money, but now they don't call at all. Should I stop sending birthday checks? They missed Mother's Day and my heart is broken. I don't know what I've done wrong.

PAYING FOR THE PAST

DEAR PAYING: You will never know what you "did

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



wrong" unless one of your adult offspring decides to tell you. I hope you realize that you are being abused again, this time by two passive-aggressive adults. You are not the reason your son lives with his mother-in-law. As to your daughter, who knows her reason for radio silence?

Please stop flogging yourself. Start living your own life. Bind up that broken heart and focus on happiness with your new husband because, as things stand, you're not going to find much with these two. Send cards if you must, but omit the money. If you do, I'm sorry to say you may hear from them sooner.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable -- and most frequently requested -- poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



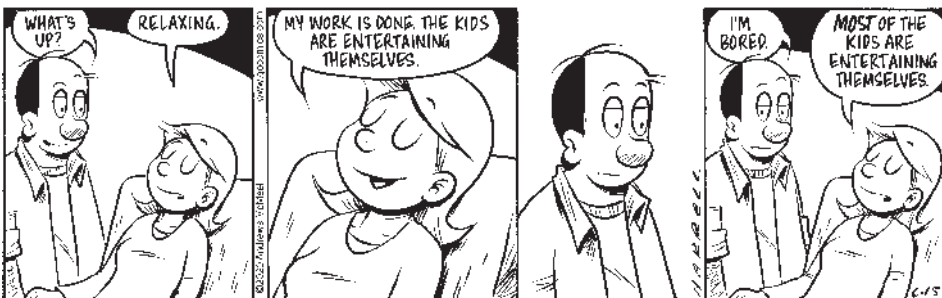
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Grand tale
5 Com core
8 Slightly
12 Jessica of "Fantastic Four"
13 Italian article
14 Theater box
15 Check
16 Orchestral piece
18 Trattoria offerings
20 Stage comments
21 Folk singer Phil
23 NBC sketch show
24 Implication
28 Morays
31 Actress Lucy
32 Wear away
34 Tic-tac-toe win
35 Univ. division
37 Soften
39 "2001" computer

DOWN

41 Use a fruit knife
42 Roused
45 Hand drums
49 Male singing voice
51 Legal wrong
52 Ireland
53 USO audience
54 Bailiwick
55 Unforeseen problem
56 Took a chair
57 Boxer Spinks
1 Entreaty
3 Sacred bird of Egypt
4 Synagogue figure
5 Abbreviate
6 Yoko from Tokyo
7 "Troy" actor
8 Skiing style
9 "Ta-ta!"
10 Screenwriter James
11 GOP rivals
17 Curved letter
19 Part of a French play
22 Be nosy
24 Ancient
25 Compete
26 Bliss
27 "The Man Who Knew Too Much" actress
29 Despondent
30 Junior Architect
33 Saarinen
36 Capturing type
38 Insurance
40 Allow
42 Fortas and Lincoln
43 Tip off
44 Eggy drinks
46 "Burr" author
47 Sandwich cookie
48 Jazz great
50 Actress Long

Solution time: 26 mins.

Last Friday's Answer 06/15

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Neil Patrick Harris, 47; Ice Cube, 51; Courtney Cox, 56; Helen Hunt, 57.

Happy Birthday: Take a closer look at your options and what you can do to ensure that things unfold to your liking as the year progresses. Take responsibility for your happiness, health and reputation. Stick to the truth, and demand the same from others. A change of heart regarding someone you looked up to will lead to personal freedom and better days ahead. Your numbers are 9, 15, 22, 27, 33, 42, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Reflect on the past before you make a promise that will have emotional consequences attached. Self-discipline will be necessary to remain on course and not lose sight of your main goal. Self-improvement projects will boost your ego and improve your health. 3 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Backing down isn't a sign of weakness; it's a sign of strength. Don't let anyone bully or pressure you. Use common sense and intelligence to get your way. You'll feel passionate about life, love and achieving happiness. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put greater emphasis on how you feel, the way you look and living a life geared toward proper diet, exercise and longevity. Say no to anyone trying to persuade you to try something illegal or not in your best interest. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let emotions dictate change. Think before you act; you'll end up with what you want. Rely on fond memories to help you see

clearly during situations that are challenging. Experience will lead to better choices. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Spice things up a bit. Look around you, and you'll discover a way to maximize your space to fit your current needs and lifestyle. Adding discipline, structure and a healthier routine to your life will boost your vigor and enthusiasm. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It's easy to miss an important detail or signal when your daily routine faces challenges. Look at what you have to work with, and make adjustments that give you a clearer vision. Fact-checking and online chats will lead to better decisions. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Make personal growth and improvements your priorities. Refuse to let your emotions mess with reason. If you overreact or take on too much, you will have difficulty retracing your steps and living up to the promises you make. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Learn from your mistakes, and move forward carefully. Money matters will not be clear-cut or go your way if you let someone interfere or take control. Use your head, and make changes that encourage your success. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A positive change at home will bring you closer to someone you love. A little charm will go a long way when trying to convince a loved one to see things your way. A new fitness routine will boost your morale. *****

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

9			4	7	2		5
			1		6		
8	7						
6			7	8		3	2
			3	6	2		
4	2		9		1		7
						8	3
		2		9			
3		7	8	6			9

Difficulty Level ★

6/15

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

6	7	8	4	2	9	5	1	3
9	3	4	5	7	1	6	8	2
1	2	5	3	6	8	9	4	7
8	6	7	2	1	4	3	9	5
4	9	3	8	5	7	2	6	1
5	1	2	6	9	3	8	7	4
7	4	6	9	3	2	1	5	8
3	8	9	1	4	5	7	2	6
2	5	1	7	8	6	4	3	9

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take a moment to evaluate what's going on around you. Consider the best way to keep everyone you live with happy. Working alongside those close to you will make your life easier. A heart-to-heart talk will lead to positive change. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put some muscle behind your ideas, and turn a dream into a reality. Make a change because you want to, not because someone is pressuring you. Personal growth will come from making hard decisions. Do what's right and best for you. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A creative outlet will ease stress and help you turn a difficult situation into something workable. Don't drown your sorrows doing something destructive. Shoot for the stars, and do something constructive and meaningful. Do your best to help those in need. ***

Birthday Baby: You are charismatic, influential and persuasive. You are intuitive and disciplined. Visit EugeniaLast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

PICKLEBALL

Solution: 10 letters

P S S E N I S U B A L L A D S
T T N D T R O P S E S A B I D
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6/15

Around, Bainbridge, Ball, Barney, Bases, Behind, Beyond, Business, Centerline, Composite, Congressman, Court, David, Diagonally, Dimensions, Dink, Ernie, Game, Holes, Indoor, Inner, Jump, Kitchen, McCallum, Outdoor, Outer, Player, Polymer, Post, Racquet, Rules, Serve, Solid, Sport, Stroke, Summer, Table, Tennis, Tournament, Wood

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Players say talks futile, tell MLB to order return



NEW YORK
(AP)—Major League Baseball

appears headed to its shortest season since the 1870s.

Continuing a contentious back-and-forth in a bitter dispute over pay, baseball players told the commissioner's office on Saturday night that additional talks to start the season during the coronavirus pandemic are pointless and said owners should order a return to work.

The union's action might lead to a season of about 50 games rather than the 82 initially proposed by MLB. The Major League Baseball Players Association could respond by filing a grievance that would be heard by arbitrator Mark Irvin, arguing players are owed hundreds of millions of dollars in damages due to a shorter season.

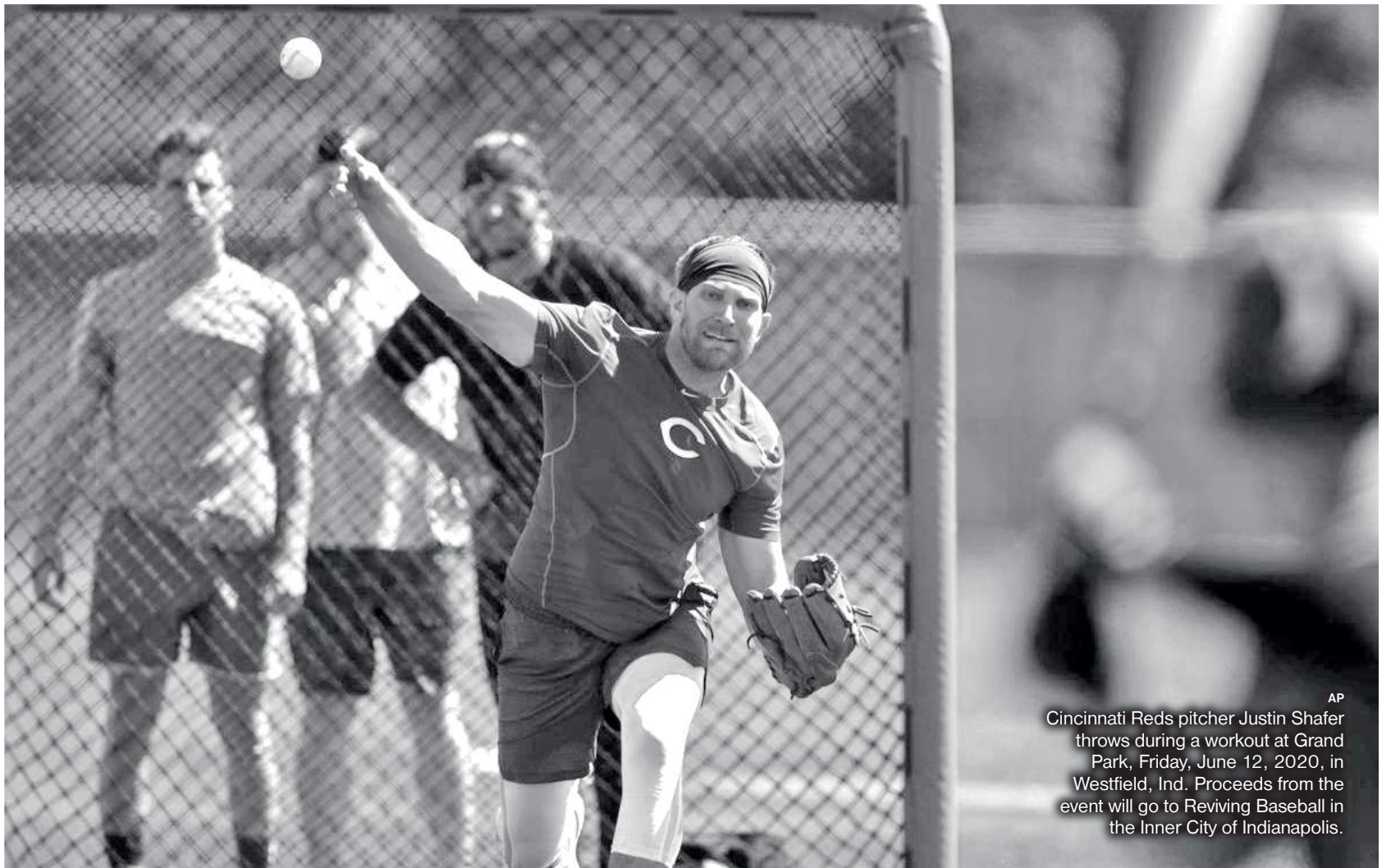
Overall, this all could spark lengthy litigation over money and a renewal of the sport's labor wars. It could even prompt some star players to sit out.

"It unfortunately appears that further dialogue with the league would be futile," union head Tony Clark said in a statement. "It's time to get back to work. Tell us when and where."

MLB responded with a statement accusing the union of not negotiating in good faith and cited the March agreement that called for prorated salaries but did not obligate teams to play in empty ballparks. Clubs could file a grievance claiming the union did not meet its "good faith" obligation.

"The MLBPA's position that players are entitled to virtually all the revenue from a 2020 season played without fans is not fair to the thousands of other baseball employees that clubs and our office are supporting financially during this very difficult 2020 season," the commissioner's office said in a statement. "We will evaluate the union's refusal to adhere to the terms of the March agreement, and after consulting with ownership, determine the best course to bring baseball back to our fans."

While the NBA, NHL and MLS have figured out deals to return in this summer of the coronavirus, baseball has descended into the fractious labor strife that led to eight work stoppages from 1972-95. The union has seethed followed a collective bargaining agreement in late 2016 that led to relatively flat salaries for five straight years, an unsuccessful grievance accusing the Chicago Cubs of manipulating third baseman Kris Bryant's service time to delay his eligibility for free agency and a grievance accusing teams of improp-



AP
Cincinnati Reds pitcher Justin Shafer throws during a workout at Grand Park, Friday, June 12, 2020, in Westfield, Ind. Proceeds from the event will go to Reviving Baseball in the Inner City of Indianapolis.

erly using revenue sharing proceeds, a process the union calls "tanking."

These raw negotiations heighten the chance of a spring training lockout after the current collective bargaining agreement expires on Dec. 1, 2021.

"Given your continued insistence on hundreds of millions of dollars of additional pay reductions, we assume these negotiations are at an end," union chief negotiator Bruce Meyer wrote in a letter to Deputy Commissioner Dan Halem on Saturday that was obtained by The Associated Press. "If it is your intention to unilaterally impose a season, we again request that you inform us and our members of how many games you intend to play and when and where players should report. It is unfair to leave players and the fans hanging at this point, and further delay risks compromising health and safety. We demand that you inform us of your plans by close of business on Monday."

Players and MLB agreed to a deal on March 26 calling for prorated salaries, \$170 million in salary advances and a guarantee of service time for 2020 even if no games are played.

That deal agreement gave baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred the right to start the season provided there were no travel restrictions and games could be played before fans in regular-season ballparks. It called for "good faith" negotiations to play in empty ballparks or neutral sites.

Players insist they should not have to accept additional cuts. A unilateral decision to start play could mean the playoffs would remain at 10 teams and not expand to 16, as both sides have proposed. High-risk players can opt out and still receive salary and service, but others who sit out would lose both.

"The solidarity of the players has never been more concentrated in years," said Scott Boras, baseball's most high-profile agent, who has three clients on the union's eight-man executive subcommittee.

MLB made three economic offers, the last Friday, and the union proposed two. The executive subcommittee held a call Saturday followed by a larger group of about 100 players, including the full executive committee and others.

The sides remain far apart on how much players should get of the \$4 billion in salaries they originally were set to earn: MLB has offered to guarantee \$1.27 billion and increase the total to \$1.45 billion if the postseason is completed. Players want \$2.25 billion and an 89-game season.

"Players want to play. It's who we are and what we do," Clark said. "Since March, the association has made it clear that our No. 1 focus is playing the fullest season possible, as soon as possible, as safely as possible. Players agreed to billions in monetary concessions as a means to that end, and in the face of repeated media leaks and misdirection we made additional proposals to

inject new revenues into the industry—proposals that would benefit the owners, players, broadcast partners, and fans alike. It's now become apparent that these efforts have fallen upon deaf ears."

Manfred said last week there is a "100%" chance of a season, adding "unequivo-

cally we are going to play Major League Baseball this year." Yet, it will be the shortest season in more than a century. And Meyer's letter to Halem cited remaining open issues in the health protocols needed before players report for a resumption of training.

Owners must now decide

whether to go ahead with a shortened schedule, of perhaps 48 or 50 games. A 50-game regular season at prorated salaries would total \$1.23 billion, leaving the union to claim about \$1 billion plus interest in damages should the case continue to a decision and players prevail.

Woods delays PGA Tour return



F O R T WORTH—The PGA Tour is off and running again after a nearly three-month hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tiger Woods, however, is taking his time before rejoining the action.

Woods—after skipping this week's Charles Schwab Challenge in Texas, the first event back—will not play in next week's RBC Heritage in Hilton Head, South Carolina, after missing Friday's deadline to commit.

Woods has played just three times on Tour this season, and picked up his 82nd career win at the ZOZO Championship in October. He finished T9 at the Farmers Insurance Open in January but then struggled at The Genesis Open just weeks later. Back stiffness kept him out of three more events, including The Players Championship—which was canceled after the first round due to the coronavirus pandemic.

He did, though, play in

The Match charity round with Phil Mickelson, Peyton Manning and Tom Brady last month. He said during that event that his back was feeling much better, and had previously said he was healthy enough to compete in The Masters had it taken place as scheduled in April.

Assuming he's not faced any setbacks health-wise, Woods should jump back on Tour in the near future in order to get some real rounds in before the first major championship of the year—the rescheduled PGA Championship on Aug. 6.

With the RBC Heritage no longer an option, Woods could jump in at the Travelers Championship or the Rocket Mortgage Classic, the next two events on the schedule.

Meanwhile, Max Butcher and his buddies felt as if they had front-row seats at Colonial, even in the bushes with no spectators allowed on the course.

The group of five recent graduates from nearby TCU stood in a small gap between a row of shrubbery and a chain-

link fence Saturday. They had a view of the fourth and fifth holes during the third round of the PGA Tour's first tournament in three months.

They had to push through gaps in the bushes to get to there but Jack Kurz, who stood next to Butcher, said the close-up view made it "almost better than getting a ticket."

There were no tickets for anyone, not even for Colonial members. The PGA Tour isn't allowing spectators the first month back after the long hiatus because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some of those members did have obstructed views from one of three temporary viewing areas set up in the yards of homes on the edge of the course. One was along the main road that leads to the clubhouse, and two others were near the 15th and 16th holes.

One member watching Saturday from a raised tent across Colonial Parkway with partial views of parts of the second, third and fourth holes, called it bittersweet. (NBC/AP)

Kyrie, others raise concerns on NBA restart



NEW YORK—Many players are raising important questions about the NBA's plan to resume the 2019-20 season—and a pair of former Boston Celtics guards apparently are leading the charge.

Several outlets reported that Brooklyn Nets point guard Kyrie Irving has been a “driving force” in bringing up issues about the restart during calls with fellow NBA players.

The Athletic's Shams Charania provided more detail Friday about Irving's concerns while adding that Los Angeles Lakers guard Avery Bradley also played a key role on the calls.

Irving actually is against going to Orlando, where the NBA plans to host 22 teams in a “bubble” environment and resume the season on July 30 with eight “seeding games” before the postseason.

“I don't support going into Orlando,” Irving told the players, according to Charania. “I'm not with the systematic racism and the bulls---. Something smells a little fishy. Whether we want to admit it or not, we are targeted as black men every day we wake up.”

Irving's comments come after Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin murdered George Floyd, an unarmed Black man, by kneeling on his neck for nearly nine minutes. Floyd's death has sparked nationwide protests against racial inequality and police brutality in America, several of which NBA players—including Boston's Jaylen Brown, Marcus Smart, Enes Kanter and Vincent Poirier—have participated in.

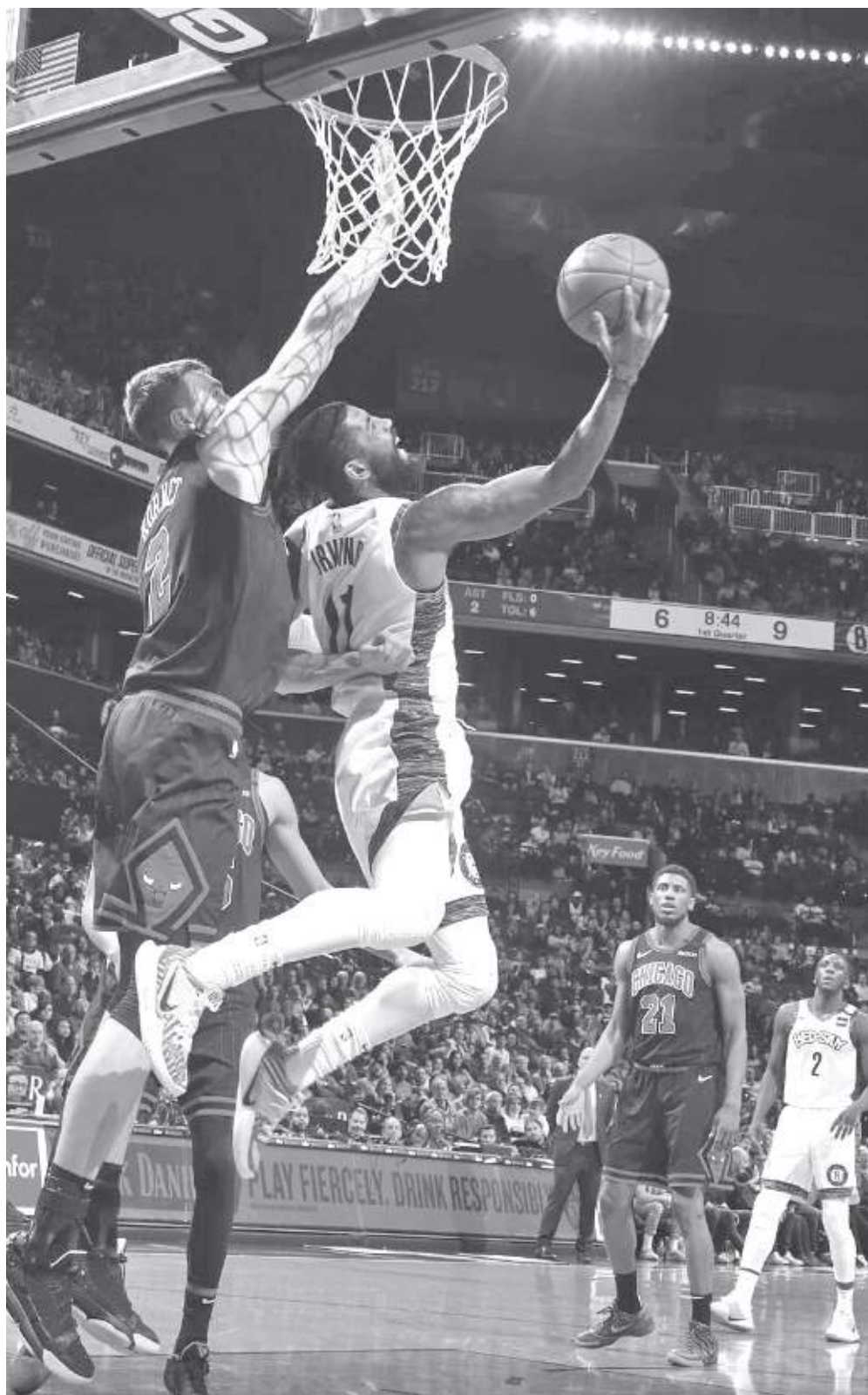
Irving seemingly is wary of NBA players diverting their energies away from these protests to play in a contained environment for the purpose of entertaining fans.

Bradley, who left the Celtics just before Irving arrived in the summer of 2017, apparently agreed with Irving on a recent call with players.

Both Bradley and Irving “have led the communication efforts” of a group of 80-plus players that consists of several NBA stars such as Kevin Durant, Chris Paul, Donovan Mitchell, Carmelo Anthony and Dwight Howard, according to Charania.

Bradley's efforts may surprise some Celtics fans who remember him as a soft-spoken player in Boston, but the 29-year-old is a 12-year veteran who is well-respected in NBA circles.

Celtics fans won't be surprised that Irving is speaking up and being a “disruptor,” according to ESPN's Adrian Wojnarowski. But Irving,



In this Jan. 31, 2020 file photo, Brooklyn Nets' Kyrie Irving (11) drives against Chicago Bulls' Luke Kornet (2) during the second half of an NBA game in New York.

Bradley and the players reportedly are vocalizing the legitimate concerns of many players that they'll have to work out with the league if the season is to resume.

Still no fans allowed for next season

While it's already been decided that the 2020 NBA season will not feature any fans when it resumes, a new report suggests the 2020-21 season could be headed for a similar fate.

The NBA's Players Association believes that no fans will be permitted to be in attendance for games next season.

That nugget of news came amidst the recent reports of a conference call on Friday that featured players voicing concerns over both the safety of the NBA's return plan for 2020 as well as how players can continue to bring attention to systemic racism and po-

lice brutality issues that have sparked nationwide unrest.

With the NBA still working out kinks for the return of the current season, not much is known about how the next campaign will be constructed. The 2020 NBA season is tentatively estimated to end in October, meaning the next season would start later than usual. There have also been discussions of potentially shortening the 2020-21 season as well.

Young stars want insurance

Jayson Tatum is going to get a max contract extension from the Celtics. Same with Donovan Mitchell from the Jazz. Brandon Ingram will get a max extension or close to it from the Pelicans, who also may extend Lonzo Ball. Bam Adebayo is going to get paid by the Heat. Same with De'Aaron Fox in Sacramento.

Kyle Kuzma is up for an extension with the Lakers.

That's just a partial list of players expected to get hefty extensions to their rookie contracts this coming offseason. It's the kind of money that will set their families up for generations.

Which is why some of the young stars of the NBA want insurance in case they suffer an injury at the restart, according to Adrain Wojnarowski of ESPN.

On the cusp of hundreds of millions of dollars in contract extensions, several of the NBA's top young stars had a Friday call with Players Association officials about the possibility of league-financed insurance policies to protect against career-threatening injuries in the bubble restart in Orlando, sources said.

The increased risk of injury, based on a three month-plus league shutdown and a shortened training camp, has inten-

sified concerns that the players are taking on heightened personal risk with the season's resumption.

Mitchell reportedly talked about this and his concerns about an injury during the restart on a players-only Zoom call Friday night, led by Kyrie Irving.

The league and players union have talked about insurance or some other form of security for players heading to Orlando who could either suffer from COVID-19 or an injury. Exactly what that would look like is still being figured out (like many things around the restart).

Players take a risk every

time they step on the hardwood to play. However, the three months without games followed by a relatively quick ramp-up to playoff intensity has more than just players concerned about injuries, team trainers are as well. Conditioning and getting players in game shape will be the focus of coaching and training staffs from the start of camps.

Providing the young stars of the NBA insurance to protect a future payday seems fair. As always, the devil is in the details, but the league needs to find a way to make this happen. (AP/NBC)

US Open fate to be decided soon

LOS ANGELES—The fate of the US Open is set to be revealed this week when officials decide whether or not the tournament can go ahead as planned amid mounting unease among top players.

The deadly COVID-19 pandemic, which has decimated the international tennis calendar, now has the Flushing Meadows fortnight in its crosshairs.

With New York the hardest-hit city by the US coronavirus crisis, the United States Tennis Association has been scrambling to come up with a plan that allows the tournament to be staged.

But with the French Open postponed to a September 20 start, Wimbledon cancelled and the tennis season in shutdown, the US Open's status has looked increasingly questionable as its August 31 start date looms ever closer.

After considering and reportedly discarding the idea of moving the tournament to either California or Florida, the USTA has settled on staging the event in New York inside a protective “bubble”, possibly without fans.

Under safety protocols proposed for the tournament, players would be confined to a hotel outside of Manhattan and would only be allowed to bring one member of their entourage to the event.

Singles qualifying would be eliminated while the doubles tournaments would be drastically reduced from 64 pairings to just 24.

The ATP/USTA Cincinnati Masters event could also be shifted to New York as a lead-in tournament.

“This is the world we are living in,” USTA's director of player relations Eric Butorac told ATP and WTA players during a conference call on Wednesday.

“We believe this is a good

plan and believe it is good for the sport. It's good for the tennis economy, creates jobs for you, for coaches, for commentators, for so many people. And most importantly, this plan keeps you safe.”

Meanwhile, Novak Djokovic's Balkans charity tennis tournament suffered an embarrassing setback on Saturday when the planned Montenegro leg was cancelled over coronavirus protocol rules.

The Adria Tour, which features world number one Djokovic, as well as the likes of third-ranked Dominic Thiem, number seven Alexander Zverev and Grigor Dimitrov, the world 19, got underway in Belgrade on Saturday.

The Montenegro leg was due to be the third stop on June 27 and 28 after Croatia and before the conclusion in Bosnia.

However, a spokesman for the organisers said the visit to neighbouring Montenegro was called off when it became apparent Serbia did not match strict health guidelines.

“The fact that citizens of Serbia are not on the list of the Montenegrin public health institute, and cannot travel to Montenegro, is an insurmountable obstacle,” organizers said in a statement.

Podgorica reopened its borders on June 1 for countries with fewer than 25 people infected with the coronavirus from 100,000 inhabitants.

The list of those countries is regularly updated. However, Serbia does not figure on it.

Asked to comment on social distancing measures during the Belgrade leg of the event, which has witnessed packed stands, Djokovic said that both Serbia and the region were relatively successful in containing the virus. (AP/NBC)

Trubisky not conceding starting QB job to Foles



LAKE FOREST, Ill. (AP)—Mitchell Trubisky understands why the Chicago Bears acquired quarterback Nick Foles.

That doesn't mean he's ready to hand over the starting job.

Trubisky said the trade for Foles gave him extra motivation to show he can develop into the franchise quarterback the Bears thought he would become when they moved up a spot to draft him with the No. 2 overall pick in 2017.

"That's the business we're in," he said in a conference call on Friday. "I've been motivated since our season ended last year. I didn't feel like it went the way we wanted to, and we left a lot out there. But I'm excited for this year. I think it's going to be a good competition."

Trubisky said he wasn't surprised when the Bears acquired Foles from Jacksonville in March or when they informed him they weren't picking up his fifth-year option for 2021.

After all, he didn't perform the way they expected last season. And the Bears stumbled, going 8-8 and missing the playoffs for the eighth time in nine years.

It certainly wasn't what they envisioned after winning the NFC North at 12-4 in 2018—coach Matt Nagy's first season.

While a defense that has excelled in recent years performed well enough, the offense ranked



TRUBISKY

among the NFL's worst. The Bears lacked playmakers to go with receiver Allen Robinson, were banged up on the line, ignored the run game and got little production from their tight ends.

That obviously didn't help Trubisky. But it doesn't completely explain why he struggled in his second year in Nagy's system.

Picked to replace Jared Goff in the Pro Bowl after the 2018 season, Trubisky's yards (3,138), completion rate (63.2%), touchdowns (17) and rating (83) all dropped from

the previous year. He made too many errant throws and questionable decisions. And the fact that Kansas City's Patrick Mahomes and Houston's Deshaun Watson—who were taken later in the 2017 draft—continued to shine only magnified Trubisky's struggles.

Nagy challenged him to get a better read on opposing defenses. And the Bears made it clear they would look to bring in competition.

For that, Trubisky doesn't blame them. The same goes for their decision not to exer-



FOLES

cise his option.

"I kind of felt like I had it coming," Trubisky said. "I put myself in their shoes—if I was looking at myself, I feel like I would have to go out and earn that fifth option, and I feel like the way I played last year didn't merit that."

Like Trubisky, Foles also has something to prove.

The 2018 Super Bowl MVP with Philadelphia, he lost his starting job to rookie Gardner Minshew during an injury-riddled season with Jacksonville and appeared in just four

games after signing a four-year, \$88 million contract.

Though Foles knows the system and has a history with Nagy in Philadelphia and Kansas City, the COVID-19 pandemic has prevented him from practicing with the Bears. Trubisky believes that gives him an edge in the competition.

"I think that advantage goes to me just because I've been the starter here the last two years, these are my guys, my teammates and guys I've built super strong relationships over the last two years," he said.

But Trubisky also knows time is running out. General manager Ryan Pace made a bold move when he traded up a spot with San Francisco on draft night to take the quarterback, one that hasn't paid off the way he hoped. And now, Trubisky is fighting for his own job.

"All I can do is control what I can control this year and that's go out and try to have a hell of a year with my teammates," he said. "I love these guys to death and I'm excited about this year and whatever happens after that is out of my control. I just feel good about where I'm at right now, I feel good about this team."

Carroll regrets not signing Kap

In Seattle, Seahawks coach Pete Carroll revisited the team's history with Colin Kaepernick and expressed regret for not signing the quarterback when given the opportunity.

Seattle brought Kaepernick in for a workout during the 2017 offseason and had another visit a year later canceled. At that time, Carroll said Seattle chose not to bring Kaepernick aboard because he was viewed as a starter, not a backup.

Carroll is reiterating that stance but says that in hindsight, he wishes he would have given Kaepernick a shot even if it meant a potentially awkward role as Russell Wilson's backup. Carroll indicated that he believed Seattle passing on Kaepernick gave him a shot to be a starter elsewhere.

AUSTRIA

From Page 20

can help the team. This will be a very big step in my life as I transition from living in a small island to the states, but I am more than ready for the upcoming challenges," Austria added.

The Teen Ayuyus co-captain, who also played in the Asian Football Confederation U19 Championship 2020 Qualifiers in Cambodia last year, will be joining his new team that was ranked in the Top 5 in the conference last season. Trine finished last year's competition with a 6-10 record and made it to the MIAA Tournament for three straight seasons. The Thunder is coached by former pro David Jacobs, who played as goalkeeper in the U.S. and Mexico and was a Michigan Community College Athletic Association Coach of the Year awardee (2016).

Meanwhile, Austria thanked NMIFA, his coaches and teammates, and all the people who influenced him to have passion for soccer and for providing him with opportunities



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI National Team player Thaippi Austria graduated at Saipan Southern High School early this month and is heading to Indiana to study at Trine University.

to improve his skills and represent the CNMI in international competitions.

"Thank you to my friends, family, coaches, teammates, and NMIFA for helping me



ASIAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION
In this 2019 file photo, the CNMI's Thaippi Austria, third left, plays tough defense on Cambodia's Ath Ontoch during the first half of their game in Group G of the Asian Football Confederation U19 Championship 2020 Qualifiers held in Phnom Penh.

become the player I am today. I will forever be grateful for all the kindness and support you have given me. This wouldn't have been possible without your support," the 18-year-old student-athlete said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Thaippi Austria, sixth left standing, joins his TanHoldings Football Club teammates, Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan, center back row, and their coaches for a group photo during a break in their summer training camp in Hong Kong in 2015.



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tell MLB to
order return

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Kyrie,
others raise
concerns on
NBA restart

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Austria will play in NCAA



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
In this 2019 file photo,
TanHoldings Football Club's
Thaiphi Austria takes a shot
during their game against
Matansa in the boys U18 divi-
sion of the NMIFA Fall Youth
League at the NMI Soccer
Training Center in Koblerville.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Opportunities continue to come for the Commonwealth's players, as another member of the CNMI national team is set to compete in the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Thaiphi Austria, who played for the CNMI Men's U19 National Team in last year's Marianas Cup and also suited up for the Teen Ayuyus in several other off-island tournaments, has signed up with Trine University in Angola, Indiana. The Thunder is an NCAA Division III school and plays in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

"It's a blessing to have this opportunity to play college soccer. I've been looking forward to this since I started high school and I am very excited that I will be able to continue my education and play soccer at Trine University," said Austria, who according to Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Executive Committee member Norman Del Rosario is the 14th

CNMI player that will compete in the collegiate level in the U.S.

At Trine University, Austria, who is a key player of TanHoldings Football Club, received an academic scholarship and financial aid, which he said will be very helpful, as he starts his new journey—both in soccer and his study. He is considering majoring in either physical therapy or civil engineering.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Thaiphi Austria, fourth left front row, poses with his fellow CNMI U19 National Team starters before playing against Cambodia in Group G of the Asian Football Confederation U19 Championship 2020 Qualifiers last year in Phnom Penh.

"I am looking forward to having more experience playing soccer at a much higher level," said the Saipan South-

ern High School graduate.

"I will continue working on my game and learn many new things on and off the

field. That way when I return to the CNMI to compete, I

See AUSTRIA on Page 19

HIIT for getting leaner and fasting revisited

My twenties are coming to an end in a couple of months, and as I recount my formative years, only one thing springs to my mind.

Perspective.

You see the beautiful thing about getting older is, you realize how much of an ignoramus you were the year before, and the year prior to that. You have a mature understanding of what resonates with you, so you start removing yourself from circles, activities, and ideals that don't jibe particularly well with you.

Right now, some of you need a psychological kick in the butt to move away from certain diet and exercise trends because all they're doing is adding more layers of confusion.

Q: Is HIIT (high intensity interval training) a superior method for getting leaner?

A: Based on the current body of literature there's seem to be no significant difference between traditional cardio and HIIT in that context. This might be a bit of a shocker to many of you because it wasn't that

long ago where it was generally thought that HIIT would maximize your rate of progress. Admittedly, I let my initial impression on it sway me too and got carried away with the purported benefits, but in retrospect, the only advantage of adding HIIT into your training for getting leaner is it's time-efficient and less boring. And from a practical standpoint, those are variables worth taking into consideration for long-term training adherence. To that end, it's worth noting that relying on your workouts to reshape your body isn't how to do things. The main vehicle for getting leaner has always unequivocally been through good dietary habits.

Q: I know a lot of people who have had success with intermittent fasting. Is it worth it?

A: I distinctly remember when intermittent fasting started to gain traction. It was touted as the strategy for concurrent muscle building and fat loss. There are indeed potential health benefits, but outside of that there's really nothing special about it. You have to understand that with any nutrition game plan, it comes down to controlling your daily food intake and managing your appetite over a period of time. Intermittent fasting (or time-restricted feeding) is more or less just a convenient way of carrying those tasks out.

Ask DRE:

By DRE DELOS SANTOS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Dre Delos Santos writes about fitness and nutrition for Saipan Tribune and TAGA Sports. He is a personal trainer at Gold's Gym. He is featured on fitness sites such as Weight Watchers, T-Nation, and STACK.

